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Mr Gromyko accuses Mr Vance of 'cheap trick'

Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said yesterday that the Russians were still hopeful of strategic arms agreement with the United States despite the failure of this week's Moscow talks with Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State. But he accused the Americans of "a cheap trick" in one of their proposals.

Russians still hope for arms pact with US

From Our Correspondent
Moscow, March 31

Optimism on prospects for an eventual strategic arms agreement between Russia and the United States was voiced yesterday by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, despite the rejection yesterday of America's latest proposals.

His statement came one day after the tough stand by Mr Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, who had rejected the ideas put forward by Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, and only hours after Mr Vance left Moscow for Bonn and London to report on the negative outcome of his four-day visit.

At his first Moscow press conference in 17 years—the last one was in 1960 after the conviction of Mr Gary Powers, the American U2 spy pilot—Mr Gromyko said the Soviet leaders still had plenty of patience and were prepared for negotiations whenever they seemed likely to succeed.

Asked for his reaction to President Carter's statement that in the event of failure he would advocate pressing ahead with development of new weapons, the Soviet Foreign Minister said that Mr Carter would be doing that on his own responsibility, whereas the Soviet Union would make every effort to reach agreement.

He justified his refusal even to discuss Mr Vance's proposals on the grounds that they violated both the letter and spirit of the 1974 Vladivostok agreement by seeking to exclude the American Cruise missile from the projected reduced ceilings. At the same time, he denied that the Soviet Backfire bomber

was capable of being used as a long-range strategic bomber capable of delivering nuclear warheads.

The Soviet Union, he said, was being asked to liquidate half of its missiles "just because someone does not like them." As for the American proposal on modernizing missiles, this was nothing but "a cheap trick" again intended to place the Russians in an inferior position.

Mr Gromyko went on to make a long series of proposals for arms control and reduction which he said the Soviet negotiators had initiated but the Americans had ignored. Progress had been made on other issues such as the ban on bacteriological warfare and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. There would also be another chance to discuss the strategic arms deadlock when he met Mr Vance in Geneva in May.

Asked whether the controversy with Mr Carter over human rights had contributed to the failure to reach an agreement during the Vance visit, Mr Gromyko said that anything that poisoned the atmosphere certainly had not helped.

"We do not try to teach others how to solve their internal problems, and we do not allow others to interfere in ours."

Moscow, March 31.—Mr Gromyko, in one outburst during his press conference, declared angrily: "It is being said by the other side that in Moscow a broad programme of disarmament was put forward and that the Soviet leadership did not accept it. That does not correspond to reality. It is an intrinsically false version."—*Reuter.*



Mr Vance, on his way home from Moscow, with Mr Callaghan at 10 Downing Street.

Carter warning to Russia on new weapons wins praise in Congress

From Fred Emery
Washington, March 31

President Carter's stated intention to "hang tough" with his proposals on arms reductions—meaning, he explained, to keep at it with "strong negotiations" until the Soviet Union came round—won widespread applause today from both parties in Congress.

There is little acceptance of "failure" of Mr Vance's Moscow mission. Unstated is the belief that the Russians have been put on the spot for refusing a fair attempt at actual disarmament.

Those, like Senator Hubert Humphrey, who most favour arms reductions, agreed with President Carter that the Soviet leadership needed time to digest his "drastic" and "radical" proposals for missile reductions.

Others, like Senator Henry Jackson, who are sceptical of the Soviet arms build-up, coolly appraised the situation as typical Soviet "testing" of a new President.

Some Republicans tended to emphasise Mr Carter's suggestion that his present restraint on new American weapons might not last beyond the next meeting of Mr Vance with Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in May. At the conclusion of his

telly called press conference last night Mr Carter said: "If we feel at the conclusion of next month's discussions that the Soviets are not acting in good faith with us, and that an agreement is unlikely, then I would be forced to consider a much more deep commitment to the development and deployment of additional weapons."

The clear threat to accelerate development of the new B1 strategic bomber aircraft and the MX mobile intercontinental ballistic missile, is what some hardliners feel to be the only language the Russians will understand.

Some news commentators take a different view. In the Washington Star Mr Henry Bradsford noted that the Carter proposal boiled down to an American promise not to build future weapons in exchange for a Russian halt to actual scrapping of present systems. That might have overwhelmed them.

A leading article in The Washington Post tentatively suggested that the blotted appearance of Mr Brezhnev, which so startled Americans in Moscow, suggested deeper ailments and the possibility that Moscow was coming to grips with a leadership crisis. The elements of the whole

debate on arms limitations have been changed as a result of Mr Carter's disclosures yesterday. In return for the offer of "strict limits on the range" permitted for Cruise missiles and other American restraints, Mr Carter wanted the following:

1. Substantial—if unstated—reductions in the overall totals of missile launchers and MIRV launchers;
2. Halt development and deployment of new weapons systems;
3. Freeze at about 550 the present level of land-based missiles—the American Minuteman, and the Soviet SS 17, 18 and 19;
4. Ban deployment of all mobile missiles—the Soviet SS 16 and 20, and the American MX, which is only at the development stage; and ask the Russians for "some assured mechanism" to distinguish between the Mobile ICBM SS 16, and the mobile medium range SS 20;
5. Limit range of the backfire bomber and the American Cruise missiles;
6. Limit test firings of ICBMs and MRBMs to six a year.

Mr Vance in London, page 8
Leading article, page 15

Parliamentary report, page 6

Nato upset as Britain plumps for Nimrod

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Britain's airborne early warning system is to be based on the home-produced Nimrod aircraft and associated radar rather than on an American aircraft and radar. Mr Mulley, the Defence Secretary, announced in the Commons yesterday.

The decision is a blow to the Nato alliance which had agreed in principle on the American system, based on the E3A aircraft, a version of the Boeing 707 airliner.

An official spokesman for Nato said in Brussels last night: "The alliance expresses great disappointment that this action was taken."

Britain had qualified its acceptance of the American system by saying that the finance ministers of the Nato countries would have to work out a plan for sharing the cost of the fleet among the partners in the alliance. This the ministers have so far been unable to do.

Mr Mulley told MPs that the decision to buy the Nimrod had been made "in the light of continued uncertainty about the procurement of the American system". The Nimrod system would, he said, be inter-operable and compatible with any system which the other partners in the alliance might decide upon.

The decision was welcomed by Mr Winston Churchill, Opposition spokesman on defence, who said that Nimrod was a superb piece of British technology. Britain had waited long enough for a Nato solution.

The number of jobs of a highly-skilled nature which will be saved by a decision to back Nimrod helped the Government to arrive at its conclusion. According to the companies mainly involved, Hawker Siddeley Aviation, the makers of the Nimrod, and Marconi-Elliott Avionics Systems, makers of the radars, some 7,000 jobs will be secured over the next five years.

The Cabinet plainly saw the decision as an investment in the newly nationalised aerospace industry. Adapting a fleet of 11 Nimrods to the early warning role will, at around £200 million, be a small fraction of the £1.5 billion planned British share of a Nato fleet of E3A aircraft.

A further reason for taking a unilateral decision was the urgent need to replace Britain's ageing fleet of Shackleton early warning aircraft. Their equipment is not able to spot the new super-sonic Soviet bombers at 200 miles distance as will the Nimrods.

Parliamentary report, page 6

Rebels 50 miles from mining town as Zaire changes commanders

Kinshasa, March 31.—Zaire admitted today that a 5,000-strong force of former Katangan gendarmes was now only 50 miles from the important copper-mining town of Kolwezi in Zaire's southern province of Shaba, formerly Katanga.

Colonel Eluki, Zaire's former operations commander in the province, said here today that the invaders were equipped with Soviet-made mortars and rockets and had "European type" foreigners with them. He denied reports that General Bumba, the commander-in-chief of the Zaire Army, had been killed.

He disclosed that "violent clashes" had occurred at Mutshasha, 75 miles west of Kolwezi, between Zaire troops and the invasion force.

The pin-pointing of the invasion force ends three days of speculation on its advance towards Kolwezi along the Benguela railway line, which before the Angolan civil war carried most of Zaire's copper to the Angolan port of Lobito.

Colonel Eluki, who has now been replaced as commander in Shaba by Brigadier Singa, head of the Zaire gendarmes, told journalists here that the invaders were using captured airports at Kisenge and Kapanga to fly in spares and equipment from Angola. "But we have bombed these airports," he said.

There have been official silence on events for the past three days, he added, because there was nothing new to report. He appealed to journalists for objective reporting and said Zaire did not want to impose press censorship.

Four hours later, however, correspondents found censors installed at the central telegraph office. Meanwhile, there were reports in Kenya that President Amin had sent paratroops and Air Force personnel to fight the 23-day-old rebellion in Shaba. They were reported to have left Kampala on Tuesday in 30 Air lorries.—*Agence France-Presse and AP.*

Last-ditch defence of Mentmore

By John Young
Planning Reporter

A group of prominent public figures is making a last-ditch attempt to save Mentmore Towers for the nation before next Tuesday, the deadline imposed by the owner, Lord Rosebery.

At the eleventh hour the issue has taken on political overtones with ministerial meetings, baffled and baffling exchanges between the Treasury and the House of Commons, and efforts by Conservative and Liberal MPs to raise the matter in the Commons.

The catalyst was the disclosure yesterday that Trafalgar House Investments, the shipping and property group, had offered £500,000 in return for a peppercorn lease of up to 50 years. In addition it is prepared to undertake repairs and maintenance, which may cost anything up to a further £500,000, and would give to the Treasury any future profits from opening the house to the public.

However, the proposed naturally depends upon the house and its contents being bought intact for the nation. The Government is refusing to put more than £1m from the National Land Fund, which still leaves a further £1.5m.

Hence the latest campaign, which is to persuade a number of leading financial institutions to advance the money the Government, free of interest, to be repaid over five years, which would amount to a gift of £450,000 gross, or about half that after tax.

But the National Arts Collections Fund has said it will participate in such a scheme up to £250,000. Two of the four main clearing banks also have expressed willingness.

Last night Mr Patrick Cormack, Conservative MP for South-East, South-west, said an all-party motion had been tabled in the Commons urging the Government to reconsider its decision not to acquire Mentmore and its contents.

Second top Treasury man leaving

By David Blake

Sir Derek Mitchell, Second Permanent Secretary at the Treasury and the man at the centre of many of the negotiations last year over overseas lenders to Britain, is to leave early next month. Sir Derek, who is 55, is to join the board of merchant bankers Guinness Mahon in October.

His departure means that the Treasury has now lost two of its top five officials in the last month. Mr Alan Lord, Permanent Secretary in charge of industry, left recently to move to Dunlop.

The first came from Guinness Mahon last summer but he declined because he thought it would be wrong to leave at a time when it was clear that the economy was in for a stormy patch.

He reached his decision to leave about a month ago, but there is a strong impression that his mind was set in that direction for some time, and the conflicts he is believed to have had over the necessary terms for the IMF loan may have stiffened his resolve.

His decision to leave does not flow from differences of policy, however, it was made clear in Whitehall yesterday.

Man in the news, page 2
Leading article, page 15

Pilot who went berserk kills seven passengers

Zamboanga City, Philippines, March 31.—A pilot went berserk and shot dead seven people and wounded 16 today as a chartered DC3 aircraft carried its military passengers back to base in the southern Philippines.

The pilot, Captain Ernesto Aguilera, left the controls, grabbed an automatic rifle from the cockpit where it was kept for security reasons and sprayed the cabin with bullets before being overpowered by the remaining passengers.—*Reuter.*

'Chaos' fear if garages repay duty

By Roger Vialovs
Energy Correspondent

Up to £15m worth of excess duty on petrol sales will be refunded by the Board of Customs and Excise to oil companies if they agree to the Chancellor's Budget proposals on fuel taxes snatched on Monday.

But motorists must insist on a receipt for petrol bought before Monday if they want a chance of getting their share of the £15m back again, the oil companies say.

Shell said there would be "absolute chaos" if retailers had to give refunds of duty on petrol they had sold since the cost of their new deliveries of oil went up on Tuesday night. Initial stages of the refunding process will be easy, the Treasury says. If the vote to confirm the 5p a gallon increase in duty is lost the customs and excise will repay all the excess to the oil companies, who collect it on their behalf.

The big companies say they will be morally bound to repay any excess duty they have received from retailers. Legally there is no obligation on the retailers to make any refund, the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection said yesterday. As there is no maximum price for petrol, retailers can charge what they like for fuel, provided motorists will pay.

But oil companies expect their dealers to pay back customers who can prove with a receipt that they bought petrol that included the excess duty.

Lib-Lab talks to avoid petrol price trap

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

While ministers were exuding an air of confidence that the Government would avoid the trap awaiting it on Monday in the Budget vote on petrol prices, the Liberal Party, which has registered opposition, was not so sure.

Both sides are trying to reach an agreement and Mr Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, had a meeting with Mr Padoa-Schioppa, Liberal spokesman on Treasury affairs, yesterday. Last night Mr Padoa said no accommodation had been reached they were still negotiating.

The Liberals are demanding that the motorists should be freed from the duty increase of 5p a gallon, although they accept the increase on heavy oils. Negotiations have been complicated by the fact that both increases are contained within the one resolution.

The same complication applies to the increase in excise duty on cars, from £40 annually to £50, which the Liberals oppose, and the increases on heavy goods vehicles, which Mr Padoa and his colleagues accept.

Mr Padoa said last night that he expected consultations with the Government to continue over the weekend. Ministers are waiting Monday to decide whether to approve the duty increases which would bring in £460m in revenue, as one of the highest importance. Defeat would create enormous administrative and legal difficulties, but the Government would not treat it as a vote of confidence.

There were suggestions that the Liberals were attempting to get a differential rate of increase between urban and rural areas, which the party views with special concern, but Mr Padoa said last night: "I do not think that is a solution this time."

With the Liberals apparently having shifted their emphasis during the day from the question of the rural areas to the motorists in general, it was not thought last night that two proposals the Government is about to bring before the Commons will have any bearing on Liberal demands.

The first is the Passenger Vehicle (Experimental Areas) Bill, which originated in the Lords, allowing experiments in rural designated areas of public transport, including car-sharing, taxis and mini-buses.

The second measure is a White Paper on transport, which will include a section on rural transport including probable recommendations to give more flexibility in the licensing system for public transport.

Our Parliamentary Correspondent writes: A revolt in the Labour ranks became apparent last night when Mr John Renshaw, MP for Ely, said that he deplored the increased tax on petrol and would not support the Government on the proposal. It was anticipated that the motorists was again going to bear an intolerable additional burden.

He also deplored the increase in the road fund licence to £50. Parliamentary report, page 6
Leading article, page 15

New £800m gilt issue as MLR is cut to 9½pc

A full point reduction in minimum lending rate to 9½ per cent and a new £800m gilt-edged issue were announced yesterday. The cut in lending rate is designed to bring it in line with prevailing money market levels, but the bank makes it clear that it is anxious to moderate the accelerating fall in interest rates ahead of negotiations for a new pay policy and to deter embarrassing inflows of "hot" money from abroad.

Page 19

Tenerife 'TV' inquiry

The leader of the United States team investigating the Tenerife air disaster said they intend to check out a report that there might have been a television set in the airport control tower when the crash occurred. Black boxes and voice recordings have left for examination in Washington.

Page 8

Pub profits scrutiny

Prices and profits in Britain's 73,000 public houses and bars are to be examined by the Price Commission. Mr Battersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, making the announcement welcomed the commission's findings on soft drinks and "mixers".

Page 4

NUS bar on 'fascists'

The National Union of Students voted to maintain its policy of actively discouraging "racist and fascist" speakers. Its conference at Blackpool rejected a move by the executive to alter the policy to one of no invitation to any speakers. Voting was 182-330 to 154,033.

Page 7

Deportation appeal

The promised Commons debate on the planned deportations of Mr Philip Agee and Mr Mark Rosenblatt was planned for Tuesday, the Government said, but the fact that Mr Rosenblatt is taking his appeal to the House of Lords on Monday will prevent it from taking place.

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Court blames AA

The House of Lords said that a tactic used by the Automobile Association to obtain higher costs for its solicitors in recovering small sums for members involved in accidents was a misuse of the process of the court Law Report, page 12

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Leaders: On Mr Healey's Budget, from Mr J. Mortimer Gounley, and others; and on the Annual Report, from Mr Michael Poole, and others. The breakdown in Moscow: Can the Liberals be relied on? Lost leaders of the Treasury. Features, pages 14 and 18. News: Hamilton in China today; Bernard Levin on beating the left at its own game; Sir Bernard Cocks on the Ombudsman. Arts, page 17. David Robinson at the new films reviews: Silver Sprock, Joseph Andrews, Jabberwocky, Pleasure at Her Majesty's and others. Obituary, page 16. Sport, pages 10-11. Racing: Report and prospects from Grand National meeting; Football: Norman Fox on British team's chances in World Cup. Business News, pages 19-25. Stock markets: Share prices fell on profit taking and the FT index closed 7.8 lower at 419.4. Gilt-edged issues, page 16.

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Dr Kaunda blames West for Soviet successes

President Kaunda of Zambia says in an interview with The Times that the West, and particularly Britain, has only itself to blame for the spread of communist influence in southern Africa and the "approaching conflagration" there. The West's failure to end white minority rule had left blacks no choice but armed conflict, in which they were supported only by the Eastern block countries.

Page 8

Japan orders trawlers to leave Soviet coast

Japan broadcast an emergency warning to its fishing fleet to leave its traditional grounds off the Soviet Pacific coast by midnight last night. Talks with Russia on a new fishing agreement have been deadlocked over Japan's claim to four islands occupied by the Soviet Union at the end of the Second World War.

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EEC butter veto

The European Commission has let it be known that it will prevent fresh sales of subsidised EEC butter to Russia. West German suppliers are negotiating the delivery of 35,000 tonnes to Moscow, but the Commission is against further sales to East European countries at the EEC taxpayers' expense.

Page 8

Miners oppose curb

Scottish miners are seeking support from the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers for rejection of the social contract. Mr Gormley, the union's president said the Chancellor could not continue to make tax concessions conditional on wage restraint. He would not recommend phase three to his members.

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Christmas complaint: The CBI has complained

that Christmas and New Year Bank holiday plans will hinder production.

Page 2

False applications: An inquiry into the affairs

of the Islington, North, Labour Party has upheld allegations of false membership applications.

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South Africa: Threat of confrontation between

Government and white labour unions over Bill to ban strikes.

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New York: Losing battle being fought in Bronx

and Brooklyn against arson.

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Holidays in Greece: A four-page Special Report

on facilities for tourists who plan to visit resorts on and off the beaten track.

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HOME NEWS

Scottish miners seek leaders' support for end to social contract

By Paul Routledge

Scottish miners are leading a political onslaught on the Chancellor's efforts to agree with the TUC on a third year of pay restraint. They are seeking, and may get, support from the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers for rejection of the social contract.

Mr William McLean, Communist secretary of the Scottish miners, said yesterday that his area leadership would reject Mr Healey's offer of tax concessions in return for another round of income policy. "I would hope that the trade union movement will reject the blackmail that Healey's bait entails," he said.

The miners' executive meets on April 14, the day after the TUC economic committee considers the Budget. NUM leaders will have before them a resolution from the Scottish miners suggesting that they should break away from the constraints of income policy.

Mr Gormley, the union's president, said yesterday that what he called the Chancellor's "blackmail" stood no chance of succeeding. "He cannot keep trying to make tax concessions conditional on restraint," he added. "What is he asking people whose wages are

not negotiated by unions to do? I will make no effort to sell phase three to my members."

That will be the view taken by Mr Gormley in discussions within the TUC economic committee, of which he is a member. It also seems certain to be the attitude of the miners' policy-making conference in the summer. All four resolutions on the preliminary agenda from moderate and militant areas call for rejection of the social contract, which is seen as synonymous with wage restraint.

The miners are also tabling a resolution for the Scottish TUC opposing wage restraint. The Scottish congress has no executive power but exercises considerable influence.

On Sunday, British Leyland shop stewards are to hold a mass conference in Birmingham Town Hall to mobilize shop-floor opinion against a renewal of the pay policy, and more than a thousand shop stewards are expected to attend. The conference is almost certain to support an unofficial call for a one-day political strike on April 20 against the social contract, timed to coincide with the day Parliament reassembles.

Childless 'to get reliefs meant to aid parents'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

A guide to the Budget tax changes for one-parent families is published today by the National Council for One Parent Families. It observes that childless couples will receive £30m in tax reliefs intended to help parents.

The council estimates that the Government could have saved £78m by limiting the tax increase for childless married men to £70.

Tax changes in the Budget (National Council for One Parent Families, 255 Kenilworth Road, London, NW5 2LX, 12p).

Overtime ban by Nalco over cash cuts

By Our Labour Reporter

An overtime ban by the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalco) starts today in protest at cuts in public spending.

The ban, approved by a special one-day conference of the union in London, is proving unpopular in some quarters and may be reversed at the annual conference in June.

Guidance on the ban has been sent to branches throughout Britain. They will have discretion to make arrangements to avoid danger to life and limb.

Christmas holiday plans annoy industry

By Craig Seton

The Government's decision about Bank holidays for next Christmas and the new year has annoyed industry, with complaints that industry will face unnecessarily prolonged disruption.

It was already known, with Christmas Day falling on a Sunday, that Monday, December 26, and Tuesday, December 27, were to be Bank holidays in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Government has now announced that because New Year's Day also falls on a Sunday, Monday, January 2, will be a Bank holiday, with an extra day for Scotland on January 3.

With bitter memories of the disruption of industry last time, when Bank holidays extended into a second week, the Confederation of British Industry and commercial interests hoped that the new year Bank holiday would be on Friday, December 30, confining the holiday period within a single week.

The CBI said yesterday: "Industrial production will suffer again. The Government based their decision on the interests of the retail trade, but surely more weight should be given to the interests of manufacturing."

The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that foreign industrialists were likely to conclude that a Britain suffering severe economic difficulties was taking its holidays too casually.

The Department of Employment said that the decision had been reached because of the difficulties likely to be experienced by the retail trade, the banks, and food distributive trades if the new year holiday was taken on December 30. Employers and employees were generally free to make other arrangements.

Dearer bacon

Some bacon will cost more next week after wholesale prices rose yesterday. English and Irish sides rose by more than 1p a pound. Danish were unchanged.

Man in the news: Battle over vital IMF loan

A wit whose memoirs would earn a fortune

By Peter Hennessy

Sir Derek Mitchell, whose departure from the Treasury to merchant banking was announced yesterday, is a rarity among civil servants in having a name familiar to the followers of gossip columns. For as principal private secretary to Sir Harold Wilson, 1964-66, he was the first official to acquire the unforgettable experience of working closely with Lady Falkender, the Prime Minister's personal and political secretary.

He is a small, fine-featured man with a pretty and a wicked wit, and his memoirs of those years would be worth a publisher's ransom. To date, he has contented himself with the safe, accompanied by an angelic smile, that the art of a private secretary in such circumstances is to display "composure and fortitude."

Perhaps unfairly, Whitehall will remember Sir Derek for his celebrated battles. His most recent was with Mr. Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. As Treasury Second Permanent Secretary in Charge of Overseas Finance, Sir Derek had a marked difference of opinion with the Cabinet's financial expert during the

negotiations that preceded the IMF loan last year.

Friends in private, with a shared love of music, especially opera, the two men, both quirky, independent spirits, had some memorable exchanges. It took a couple of meetings chaired by Mr. Callaghan at the turn of the year to sort things out once the loan and sterling safety net were secure.

Sir Derek would like himself to be a "winged messenger" bringing gloomy reports about just what Britain's creditors would and would not stand from HMTC. According to Whitehall insiders, he was nearly won the Treasury's internal battle about the need for even greater cuts in public expenditure last December.

The difference between Sir Derek and many civil servants is that he would not dress up unpalatable truths, as he saw them, in soft language to spare the feelings of ministers. If he did not think their schemes had a hope, he would tell them. "And Derek does have his sense of humour," his friends would say to explain his difficulties with the more wishful-thinking of ministers.

He could wax eloquent about



Sir Derek Mitchell: "Composure and fortitude"

the danger of civil servants becoming indistinguishable from special advisers appointed by ministers for political reasons. His political views were the most austere of them all, Sir Stafford Cripps, who did not spare people either. It was that side of Sir Derek that led his superiors to appoint him to Number 10 in anticipation of a

Labour victory at the polls in 1964.

Sir Derek's decision to move to the City slightly predated the high peak of criticism he suffered during the currency collapse last autumn. Guinness Mahon first made their approach last summer. He decided to stay beyond the Budget, as he did not wish to give the impression of cutting and running.

It was difficult to be neutral about Sir Derek Mitchell. Some will not regret his premature departure at 55, others will miss his spirit and conviction. Had he succeeded Sir Douglas Allen as Head of the Treasury three years ago he would surely have stayed. But he said this week, some years ago he had vowed to take stock at 55 and consider pastures new.

Asked what had been his most difficult job during 30 years in Whitehall, Sir Derek, ironic as ever, replied that it was handling public service pensions in the Treasury's superannuation division. He found it difficult to sustain the required Jesuitical frame of mind, he explained.

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Business Diary, page 21

Scottish local councils try to repair image

From Martin Huckerby Elgin

The Scottish local authorities spent much of the first day of their annual conference at Elgin yesterday trying hard to repair their public image, which has been badly damaged by disputes between regional and district councils.

Many representatives at the conference of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (Cosla) were worried about the public disenchantment with their councils, arising from the squabbles between the two tiers of the reorganized local government system.

The new Scottish local authorities have been generally criticized than their English and Welsh counterparts and there has been greater conflict between the two tiers. Differences between districts and regions have arisen over planning and roads, housing and social work, and recreation and tourism.

The issues are not always important. For example, Lothian Regional Council and Edinburgh District Council are at present locked in a fierce argument over who should provide an information booth at Edinburgh airport.

Man kept wife murder secret for five years

From Our Correspondent

Ronald Chambers, aged 51, said to have kept the death of his wife secret for five years, was found guilty at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, yesterday of her murder in 1971. He was jailed for life.

The jury rejected his defence that he stabbed his wife, Maria, aged 40, six times in self-defence after she had attacked him with a carving knife. He said she had died after impaling herself on the knife when she fell.

It was stated that Mr Chambers, of West Hill Road, Luton, had buried the body in a shallow grave in the back garden and had then sold the house and moved to Blackpool.

He had written letters to his wife's sister in Luton, it was alleged, telling her how he and his wife were getting on. In 1975 the police visited his sister on another matter and she told them of her suspicions.

Restrictions on use of tobacco substitutes

By Our Social Policy Correspondent

The use of tobacco substitutes in cigarettes received approval yesterday. But the Home Office laid down several conditions.

It makes clear in its report that it has not approved unrestricted use of the new substances. It wants manufacturers to state the precise proportion of inclusion of the substitute, probably between a fifth and a quarter, and the other ingredients of the cigarettes that will contain it.

The evidence received relates only to particular proportions of tobacco with substitutes and particular types of tobacco, it says.

"If manufacturers wished to use the substitute in circumstances widely different from those for the tests it could be scientifically unsafe to extrapolate the favourable evidence we have."

The laboratory of the Government Chemist will monitor the composition of the new cigarettes put on the market. The committee is also anxious to see the progressive development of milder cigarettes.

Manufacturers indicate that the committee intend the new cigarettes to have a much lower tar and nicotine yield.

The committee says that in the case of Callaghan's plans the

submission "is sufficiently precise to enable us to say that we find it unobjectionable."

It intends to task Carreras-Rothman and Imperial for more details, but adds: "We do not intend that this action should hinder the companies, as we have given our secretariat authority to agree the submission forthwith if they are satisfactory."

The tobacco additives approved will be used without any marketing submission in the case of conventional cigarettes. But submissions will be required for proposals to use them with a tobacco substitute.

Dr Robert Hunter, chairman of the committee, said the evidence indicated that substitute tobaccos were no more damaging to health than ordinary tobacco, and that they might lead to making smoking less harmful.

Chemical studies indicated a lessening of toxic substances in cigarettes containing the new materials, and a diminution in the potential for causing tumours in animals.

'Welcome step': Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) said the move was a welcome step to less harmful smoking, but must be treated with great caution. It added: "There is a great deal of talk of a safe cigarette. If this happens, tobacco substitutes could do more harm than good."

Year's jail for corruption

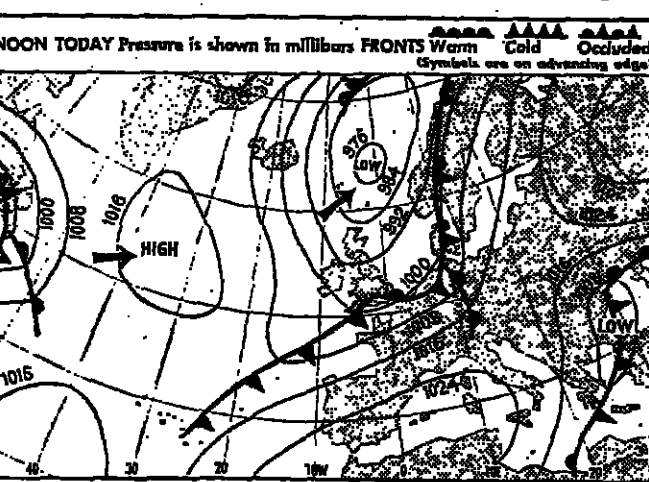
Dennis Rose, aged 41, a businessman, was jailed for a year by Mr Justice Talbot at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday and ordered to pay £2,000 towards prosecution costs when he was found guilty of corruption.

He was found guilty of corruptly giving a dishwasher, cooker, washing machine, freezer, refrigerator, fitted carpets, 450 gallons of heating oil and part of the cost of two cars.

Avon, had been acquitted on charges of corruptly receiving gifts or advantages. He was also found not guilty of forging and uttering a £1,530 cheque.

Mr Rose was cleared of four charges of corruption. He was found guilty of corruptly giving a dishwasher, cooker, washing machine, freezer, refrigerator, fitted carpets, 450 gallons of heating oil and part of the cost of two cars.

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded
Solid line = warm front; dashed line = cold front; line with semi-circles = occluded front; line with triangles = high pressure; line with dots = low pressure.

7 am, 1°C (34°F). Humidity, 7 pm, 90 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 7 pm, 0.07in. Sun, 24hr to 7 pm, 0.043 in. Bar, mean sea level, 7 pm, 1,004.3 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

30-day forecast

The Meteorological Office yesterday issued the following forecast for the next 30 days. A cold start with overnight frost in many areas is expected. Thereafter variable weather is likely, including E winds, which may be mostly cyclonic in S districts. Some warm days are expected generally.

Mean temps are expected to range from below average in East Anglia and S parts of England and Wales to near average elsewhere. Rainfall will probably be above average in S parts of England and Wales, below average in N Scotland and about average elsewhere.

The frequency of frost and gales and the duration of sunshine will probably be near average in most places, but less sunshine than average is likely in the S.

Yesterday: Temp: max, 7 am to 7 pm, 1°C (46°F); min, 7 pm to 7 am, 0°C (32°F).

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; s, sun; r, rain; s, sun; snow.

Abolition of...
Algeria...
Angola...
Argentina...
Australia...
Austria...
Belgium...
Brazil...
Canada...
Ceylon...
China...
Czechoslovakia...
Denmark...
France...
Germany...
Greece...
Hungary...
India...
Indonesia...
Italy...
Japan...
Kenya...
Korea...
Kuwait...
Laos...
Lebanon...
Libya...
Luxembourg...
Malaysia...
Malta...
Mauritius...
Mexico...
Morocco...
Netherlands...
New Zealand...
Norway...
Oman...
Pakistan...
Poland...
Portugal...
Romania...
Saudi Arabia...
Singapore...
South Africa...
Spain...
Sri Lanka...
Sweden...
Switzerland...
Taiwan...
Thailand...
Turkey...
Uganda...
United Kingdom...
USA...
USSR...
Yemen...
Zambia...
Zimbabwe...

College head resigns

Mr Arthur Goodburn, the suspended principal of the Isle of Ely College, at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, resigned his £10,200-a-year job yesterday.

After a secret 21-day disciplinary hearing into 13 allegations of mismanagement against him, a panel of three governors found the accusations proved. But the full body of governors was unable to agree on Mr Goodburn's future.

Water rate shock for West Country

Water rates in the West Country might rise by up to nearly 80 per cent over the next five years, according to a plan published yesterday. The five-year development plan, drawn up by the South West Water Authority at the request of the Government, has been "cut to the bone" to minimize the effect on future charges.

130 answers sought in new school record system

Teachers at 16 selected infants' schools in Coventry will have to answer more than 130 questions about each child in a newly devised record system to be included in checks on children's academic progress.

Two questions ask whether the boy or girl can go to the lavatory alone or fasten coat buttons.

Mr Kenneth Holdcroft, of Coventry branch of the National Union of Teachers, said last night: "Obviously records have to be kept on infants to check progress and ability, but it depends how far you go."

Saliva tests

All young men in Redditch, Worcester, with a population of 60,000, will be asked by the police to take saliva tests to eliminate them from the hunt for a rapist.

Sussex police vote

Police in Sussex have voted by a small majority in favour of having the right to strike, but an overwhelming majority opposed membership of the TUC.

"We're doing our best to move with the times, for the sake of the tourist trade."

JUKEBOX

GLEN GRANT MALT WHISKY

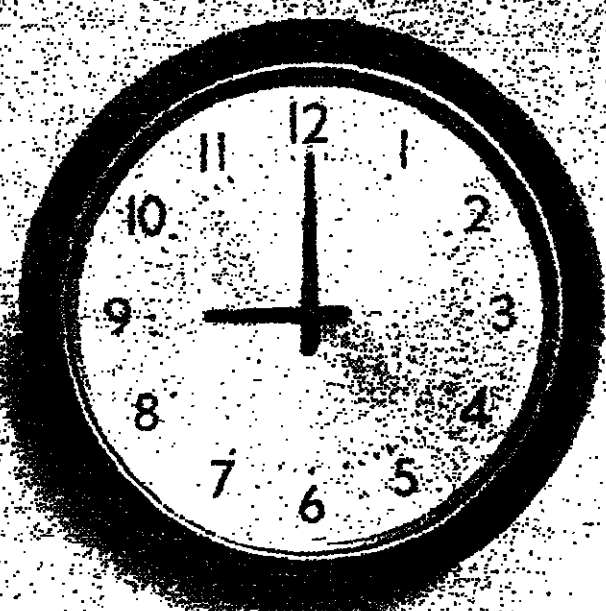
PRODUCE OF SCOTLAND

GLEN GRANT DISTILLERY

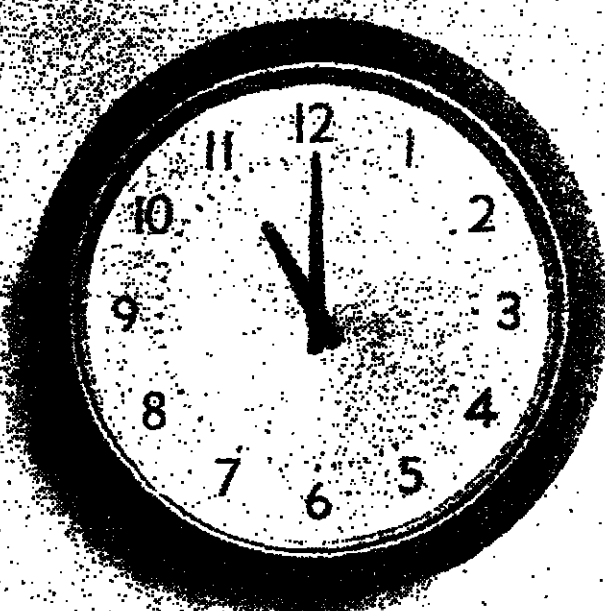
26% FL.OZS. ESTABLISHED 1840 70° PROOF

Glen Grant Malt Whisky. Drinking the best is a serious business.

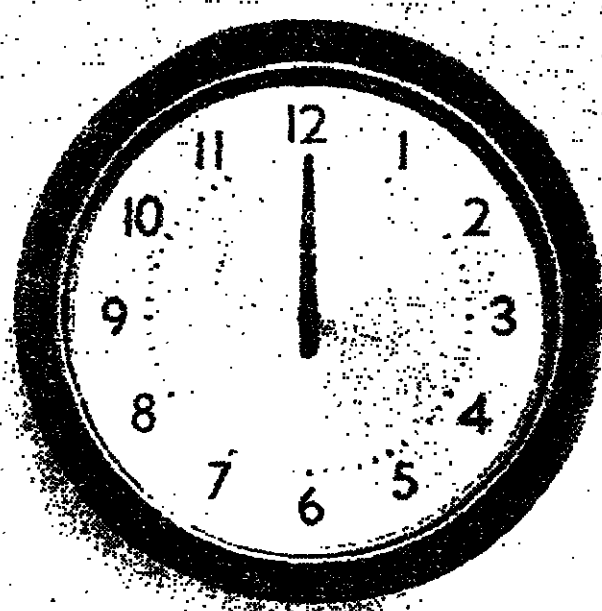
The staff of NatWest International work round the clock.



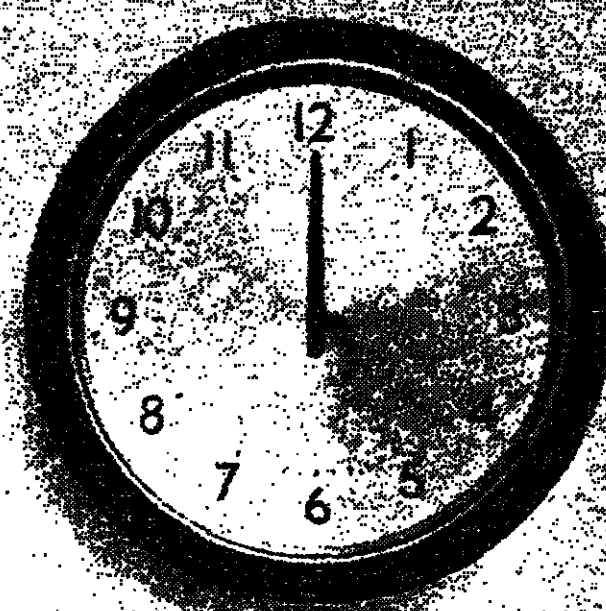
NatWest San Francisco.



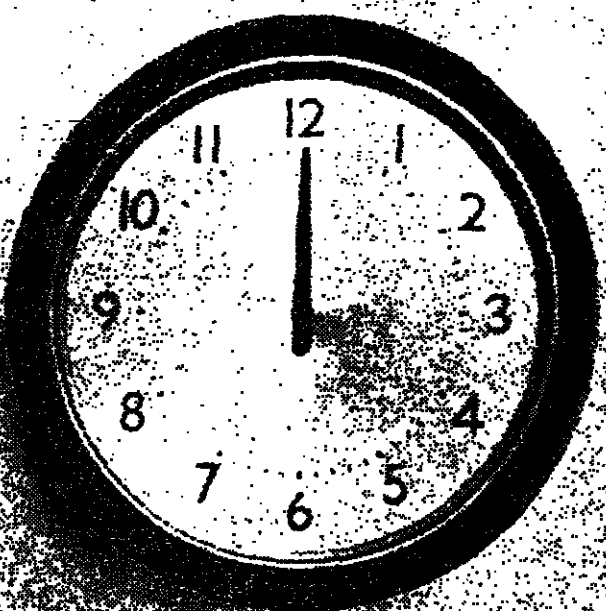
NatWest Chicago.



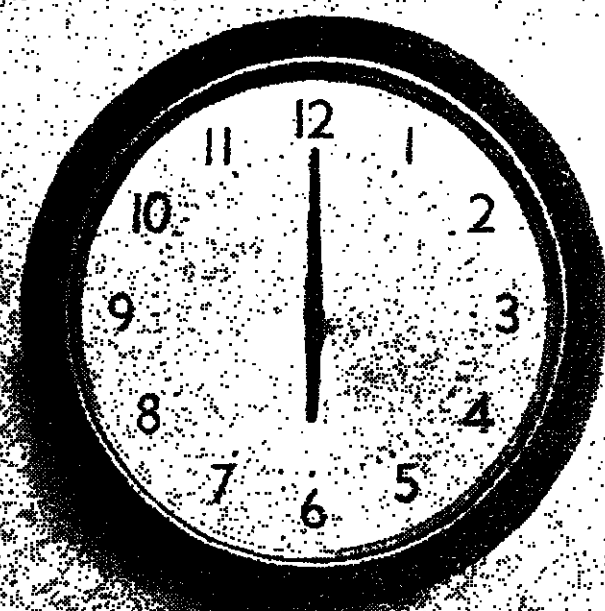
NatWest Nassau.



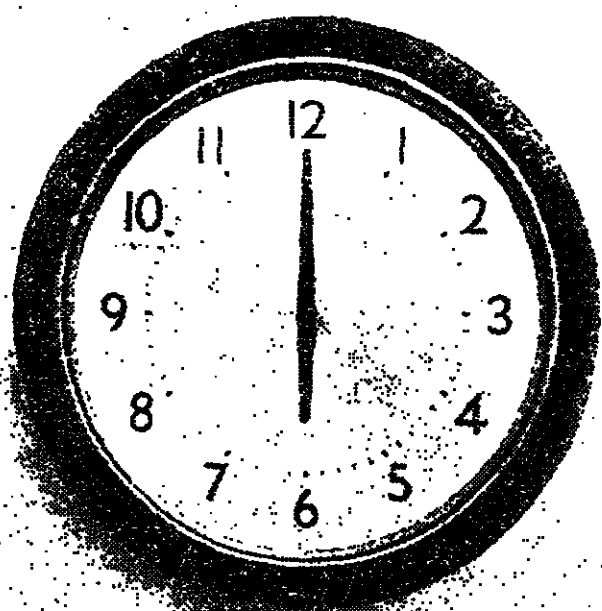
NatWest Toronto.



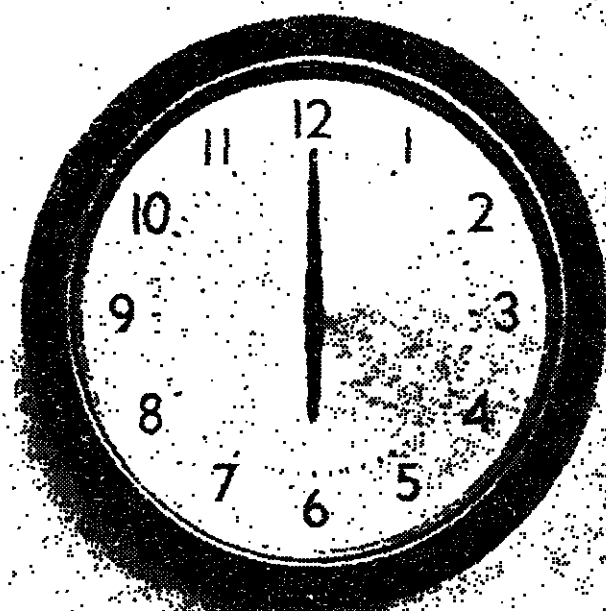
NatWest New York.



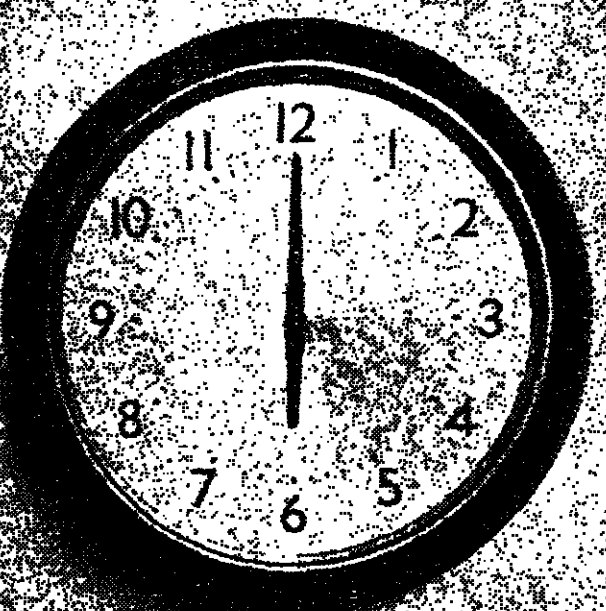
NatWest Brussels.



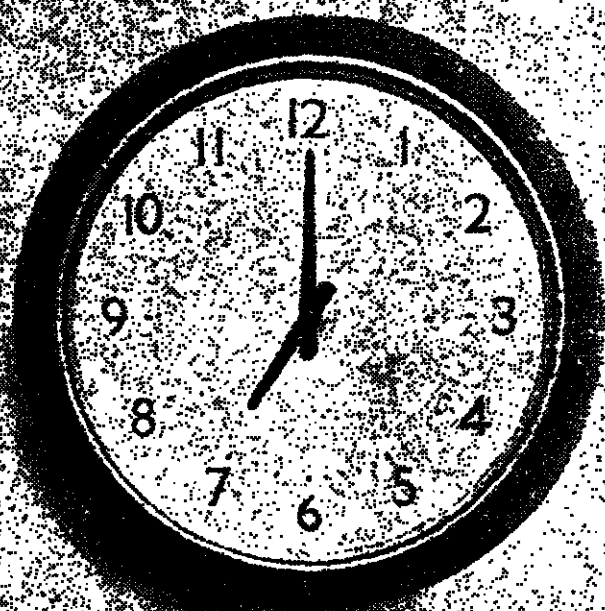
NatWest Frankfurt.



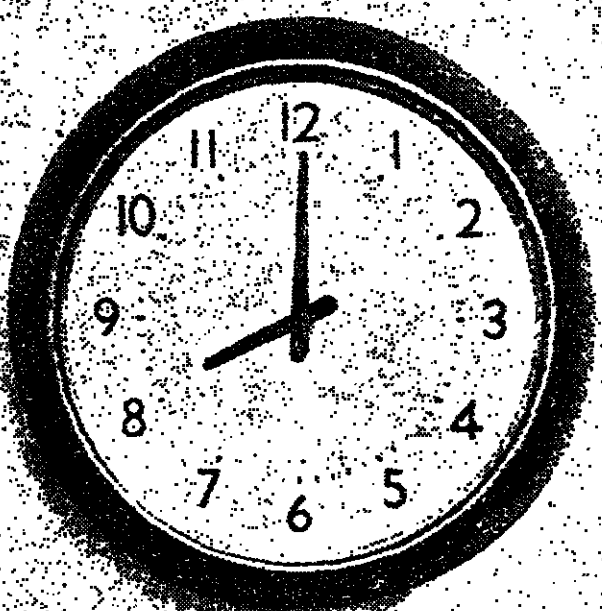
NatWest Paris.



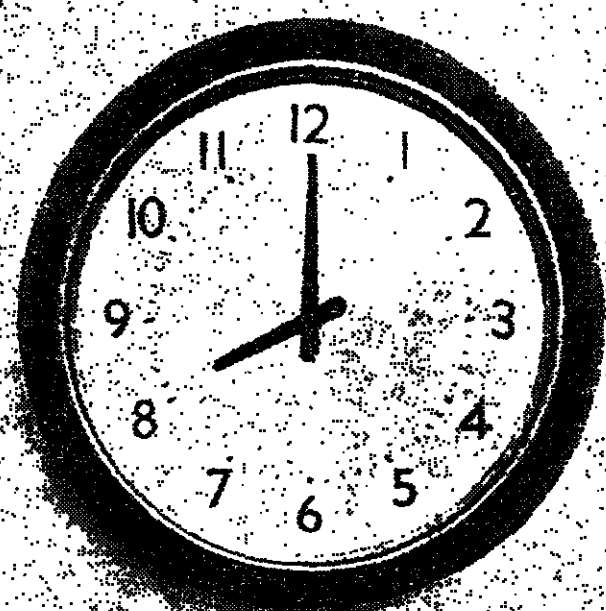
NatWest Madrid.



NatWest Piraeus.



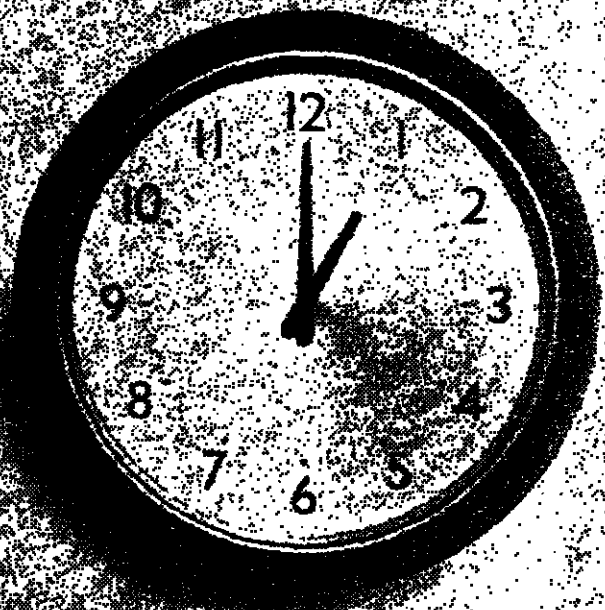
NatWest Moscow.



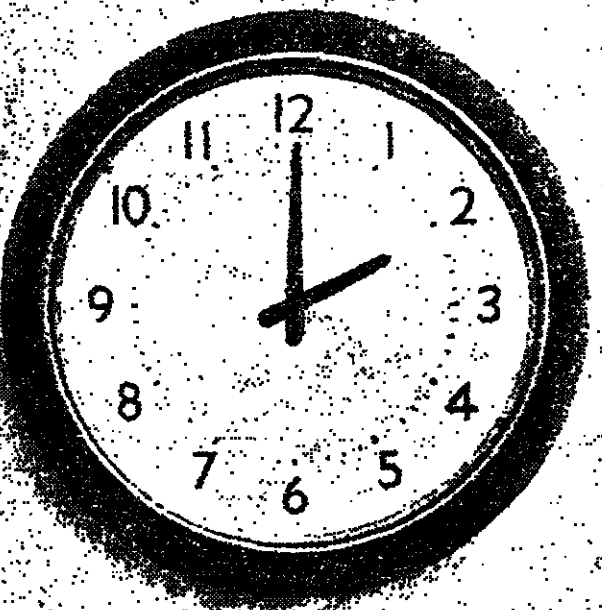
NatWest Bahrain.



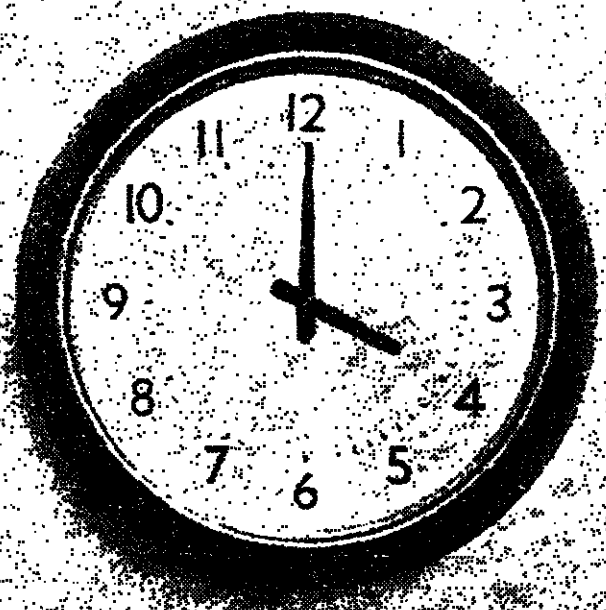
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HOME NEWS

Prices and profits in public houses and bars to be examined

By Ronald Embley

Business News Staff
Prices and profits in Britain's 73,000 public houses and bars are to be examined by the Price Commission. That was announced yesterday by Mr. Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, who welcomed the commission's findings on soft drinks and "mixers" sold on licensed premises. The study will be made by visiting the scope of the commission's investigation into beer prices.

In its report, published yesterday, the Price Commission recommends that bar prices for mixers such as tonic water should be "reduced by at least 2p". It suggests that manufacturers and licensees could ensure that by joint action.

On mixers, the commission said that for the public to compare the price of a 40z bottle of tonic, selling in a public house at about 12p with the 80z bottle available in most supermarkets and grocers for about 9p was unfair.

There are "widely differing overhead expenses and profit margins" in the two types of establishment, the commission says, but points out that the average gross margin on mixers is 54 per cent (effectively a "mark up" of well over 100 per cent) compared with a margin of 49 per cent on spirits and 33 per cent on beer.

The commission criticizes some manufacturers who have "loaded" price rises, within the provisions of the Price Code, on to the size of mixers usually sold in public houses. Also, publicans, unwilling to deal in halfpennies, tend to "round up" to the next penny when manufacturers' prices rise.

On shandy and lager and lime, the report says it is common practice for prices to be noticeably higher than the cost of the constituents would justify. The practice of charging for lemonade as if it were bitter is widespread and should end. That would effectively bring the price of shandy down by 2p a pint on average.

There is also criticism, strongly denied in the trade, that some licensees deliberately load prices of soft drinks sold separately to discourage demand. Mr. Hattersley would like there to be talks with licensees and brewers aimed at implementing the commission's recommendations. The Brewers' Society and the National Union of Licensed Victuallers said the mixer trade was only a small part of public house business, and it was unfair to attack the licensed trade without knowing the full picture of its pricing and profit structure.

Soft Drinks and Mixers in Licensed Premises. Price Commission report 23 (Stationery Office 60p).



Painting returned: Lady Spencer-Churchill, who is 92 today, had an unexpected birthday present yesterday with the return by a London dealer of one of the paintings sold at auction last month to help to meet her living expenses (our Arts Reporter writes). Mr. Roy Miles took it round to Lady Spencer-Churchill's flat and had tea with

her while the picture, one of her favourite works, painted by Sir John Lavery and showing her with her daughter, Sarah, in 1915, was rehanging in its old position in the hall outside her room. Mr. Miles is letting Lady Spencer-Churchill have the painting, part of which is shown above, on loan for her lifetime.

Applications for party membership were false

An inquiry by Mr. Reginald Underhill, the Labour Party's national agent, into the affairs of the Islington, North, Labour Party has upheld allegations of false membership applications. But the inquiry report says it cannot apportion blame.

The party's national executive committee ordered the inquiry in May last year after allegations of voting irregularities at the annual meeting of two ward branches.

There has been a long history of conflict within the constituency party between self-styled members and supporters of the MP, Mr. Michael O'Halloran. The conflict came to a climax on March 11 this year when Mr. O'Halloran alleged that he was punched and kicked by demonstrators protesting against his support for amendments to the abortion Act.

Allegations of false membership applications were presented to the inquiry in evidence from four party members.

The report says:

We are extremely concerned with the evidence presented regarding applications for membership, but we note that these were reported in 1974 and, although the matter is serious, we are surprised it is in the issues for which this inquiry was requested. We regret that it has not been possible to place the responsibility for the submission of these false

Extraordinary steps have been taken by various persons on both sides to encourage other members to attend important meetings with a view to securing support for their own favoured nominees and resolutions.

We regret that from the evidence placed before us there is a regrettable absence of comradely spirit and tolerance in the constituency party. We find it difficult to apportion responsibility for the events and atmosphere within the party.

Some matters raised by complainants are clearly substantiated, but it would appear that in some instances the complainants have looked around for issues to raise in order to embarrass and oppose the present constituency party leadership.

As a result of the report, which has been sent to all members of the national executive, a member of the party's London regional staff will attend every meeting of the Islington, North, party for the next year.

Man cleared of trying to kill former mistress

Socrates Pieri, aged 47, was cleared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of trying to murder his former mistress in her bath. He was acquitted of attempting to murder Miss Ourania Christodoulou at her home in Sussex Way, Holloway, last November.

The jury also acquitted him of attempting to cause her grievous bodily harm, and assault causing actual bodily harm. Mr. Pieri, of Park Avenue, Palmers Green, told the court that Miss Christodoulou was taking when she ran naked into the bathroom. He was screaming for help and then told the police that he had thrown a live electric wire into her bath.

He said Miss Christodoulou had staged the incident to get him to prison. They had argued over keys to her flat and she often threatened to get him sent to jail.

Group to study running of mental hospitals

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Mr. Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced yesterday that he is setting up a high-level working group to examine shortcomings emphasized in recent reports of inquiries into mental hospitals.

The group will comprise people with practical experience, including members of the social services, community health councils, voluntary organizations and the Health Advisory Service. Names will be announced shortly and Mr. Ennals expects the group to report to him next year.

In a Commons written reply he said the group would examine particularly management difficulties of hospitals and units concerned with mental illness.

Science report

Pollution: Lead and mental handicap

Despite countless research studies and official government statements by experts there is still uncertainty about the importance of lead in the causation of mental handicap.

The effects of chronic lead poisoning on adults are well known—anaemia, nerve damage and colic—and safety levels have been agreed for industry and for domestic water supplies. What is not yet certain is the effect on children of exposure to lead at levels that cause no obvious symptoms.

In particular there have been several studies showing an apparent link between abnormally high amounts of lead in the environment and mental handicap in children. The latest study comes from Professor Abraham Goldberg's unit at Glasgow University. Two years ago his team showed that there was more lead in the water supply of the homes of mentally handicapped children than in the water in normal children's homes. They have now taken that investigation a step further by carrying out

tests on blood specimens taken from the cases of mental retardation for which there is no other medical explanation. He points out that there are 1,700,000 households in Britain in which water left standing in the pipes at night, which becomes the first sample taken from the tap in the morning, contains more lead than the World Health Organization limit.

Other authorities are more cautious, pointing out that the studies linking lead with mental handicap have been mostly retrospective and that there is no clear connection between the severity of mental handicap and the amounts of lead in the blood.

No one, however, will dispute Professor Goldberg's assertion that water supplies should not be contaminated with lead. In Glasgow the necessary changes are being made.

By Our Medical Correspondent
Source: The Lancet, April 2, 1977, p.17.

Courts say national security has precedence over freedoms
Predicament of 'non-identical twins'

By Stewart Tendler

Home Affairs Reporter
In the Court of Appeal this week Mr. Mark Hosenball and Mr. Philip Agee were described as "non-identical twins". The description aptly meets the predicament and the threat of deportation.

But five months since notice of intention to deport was served last November little has emerged about the metaphorical parentage of the twins. National security was involved in their deportation but Mr. Rees, Home Secretary, has refused to give any details of the deportations other than broad allegations. To lobby after lobby he has shaken his head negatively like the mother of an illegitimate child left holding the baby but loyal to the father's confidentiality.

Mr. Hosenball, aged 25, was accused of obtaining information for publication harmful to national security and prejudicial to the safety of servants of the Crown. An American, he worked as a journalist in Britain for some years. He wrote for Time Out, a London weekly magazine mixing information on events, theatre and cinema with offbeat and investigative journalism along left-wing lines.

Mr. Agee, aged 41, was accused of maintaining regular contacts with foreign intelligence agents, disseminating information harmful to Britain's security and aiding others to

obtain such information for publication. Mr. Agee is a former member of the CIA who wrote a book of his experiences and the faults of the agency. He has lived in Britain for some years, working on a second book, writing and lecturing. In recent years he has become something of a luminary in the field of CIA-sporting industry.

The Home Secretary acted under a section of the Immigration Act, 1971, covering matters of national security, and the cases of Mr. Hosenball and Mr. Agee have become the first under the particular section of the Act. No right of appeal is allowed in the Act but both men took advantage of a process of representations made to three members of an advisory panel.

It was hoped that the panel would clarify the details of the allegations, replacing the mountain of speculation and rumour that followed the notices of deportation. The CIA was said to have a finger in Mr. Agee's allegations. Was vengeance being sought for his spilling secrets against the CIA in Jamaica? Was he being accused of the death of a British agent behind the iron curtain?

Mr. Hosenball had started work for the Evening Standard, the London evening newspaper, but was he being accused for work written in Time Out? The two men knew each other and was there some connexion? Since Mr. Rees had recently

come from Northern Ireland, how strong were the reports of an Irish aspect?

When the panel began hearing representations in January not a great deal more was disclosed. It worked in a former Pail Mall club behind closed doors. Witnesses waiting outside could only read the private memorandum of a committee on water resources left in the waiting room or discover from an abandoned notice that a Nato committee had once met there. Inside, the panel would give little.

Mr. Agee conducted daily press conferences on the panel as it laboured through more than 250,000 words of evidence and a long list of witnesses. Mr. Hosenball played a very different game and refused to say anything at all.

By the beginning of February the panel had heard MPs, journalists and even Mr. Ramsey Clark, the former United States Attorney General. In the middle of the month Mr. Rees announced that he had examined the panel's advice and deportation orders would be served.

He refused to say what the panel had advised, although some sources said they were unanimous for the deportation of both. Other sources have since suggested they were split in favour of allowing Mr. Hosenball to stay and unanimous that Mr. Agee should go. In their questioning the panel disclosed that they were in-

terested in Mr. Agee's life before he came to Britain when he worked in Paris and visited Cuba. Mr. Hosenball found that they were interested in an article on the Government's communication centre at Cheltenham, although he told them he had not written the article and the real author explained that the sources were public.

Mr. Rees's announcement pushed the affair to the courts, in which it is still trapped. Mr. Agee sought safety in the Scottish courts and failed. Mr. Hosenball, the two fighting separate campaigns, went to the High Court.

As the legal challenge began, the author of the communication article and a member of the defence committee set up to help the two Americans were arrested with a former soldier at the end of February under the Official Secrets Act.

In the courts the issue has moved from questions arising from journalistic work and freedom of information, which were invoked at the beginning, to issues of national security and the freedom of the individual.

Mr. Hosenball has failed in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court and the Court of Appeal after pleading that Mr. Rees had invalidated the deportation by failing to give sufficient details of the allegations. So far the courts have accepted that national security takes precedence over freedoms. The next step is the House of Lords.

New compensation code for Northern Ireland proposed

By Our Legal Correspondent

A proposed new code laying down the criteria to be applied in assessing compensation to be paid to people whose property is damaged by criminal acts in Northern Ireland was published yesterday.

The draft order contains provisions extending the ambit of Criminal Injuries Act (Property Compensation) Act (Northern Ireland), 1971, the existing legislation on the subject.

The proposed order would make compensation payable where damage was caused by any organization engaged in terrorism. Under the 1971 Act only damage done by officially proscribed terrorist organizations could become the subject of a claim.

In determining whether compensation should be paid, and how much, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland would become entitled to take into account circumstances such as whether the applicant had made unlawful use of the property, whether he had behaved provocatively or negligently, whether he had taken reasonable precautions to avoid damage to his property; and the degree of help he gave towards arresting the offender.

The draft order follows the report of a committee, chaired by Sir James Wadell, which looked into the 1971 Act.

Assaults on boys by verger

James Abson, aged 42, head verger of St. Albans Cathedral, lured choirboys to his caravan and indecently assaulted them, St. Albans magistrates were told yesterday.

Mr. Abson, of St. Stephen's Hill, St. Albans, was fined £500 after pleading guilty to three charges of indecent assault.

Fostering plan for the elderly

A scheme to provide foster-homes for elderly people was approved by Leeds Social Services Committee yesterday.

The social services department said families willing to foster would receive training and advice. Leeds has a waiting list of 600 for places in permanent homes.

Knightsbridge 'maisonette' fetches £1.2m

By Our Estates Correspondent
A price of £1,200,000 has been paid for the penthouse and a large part of the floor below in South Kensington, the block flats being built in Knightsbridge, London. The sale is to a Swiss company, but it is understood that it will be occupied by a single family. The completed, the maisonette could provide up to 17 bedrooms, six reception rooms, 11 bathrooms and two kitchens, depending on layout.

Hampstead, which acted with Aylesford in the sale for Trafalgar House Development, says more than two-thirds of the block, due for completion next March, has been sold or reserved.

Cars blown off M62

Several cars were blown off the trans-Pennine M62 motorway near Huddersfield, by high winds yesterday. No one was injured.

Doctors worried over use of potent drugs

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

Doctors are becoming increasingly worried about the use of the potent drugs now available. The Royal College of Physicians held a press conference yesterday about the testing of new drugs and responsibility for, at times, unforeseen effects.

Sir Eric Scowen, chairman of the Committee on Review of Medicines, said new monitoring systems were being considered and consultations were taking place with the industry,

doctors and other bodies to see if a workable scheme could be agreed.

At a conference prompted by concern about adverse reactions to prazolol, a useful drug which produces adverse reactions in a small number of patients, Sir Eric said:

"Modern medicines have become so powerful that there must be some doubt about the ability of one person to comprehend fully every new product. We would not wish in any way to suggest that the right of doctors to prescribe as they see fit should be eroded, but it is now debatable

whether all practitioners are equally competent to handle every new potent substance immediately after its introduction."

Dr D. G. Davey, formerly research director of ICI pharmaceuticals division, said metabolic investigation must be done in rats and dogs and later in man. That was worrying and the time had come to review toxicity-testing procedure.

The present way of doing some carcinogenic tests and the interpretation given to positive results in animals were unreal and had little relevance to what would happen in man.

'Wine waiters paid only £12 a week'

Les Ambassadeurs, a private luncheon and dining club in Hamilton Place, Mayfair, paid wine waiters a basic wage of only £12 a week, an industrial tribunal in London was told yesterday. It rose to £18 in April, 1976, but was still below the legal minimum of about £23, it was stated.

Mr. Umberto Berlen, aged 40, an Italian wine waiter from Chelsea, was appealing to get

his job back at the club. He was dismissed for allegedly "reckless of garlic", being rude to a customer, serving wine over the wrong shoulder and bursting into a private meeting with wine inspectors.

Mr. Berlen said he joined the Transpennine and Genoa Workers' Union in March, 1976. Others joined a few days later. He continued: "Three or four weeks after I joined they said I should be tea leader. The club

found out that I was acting on behalf of my colleagues in June or July.

"Their attitude towards me changed. Until that time they had no complaints against me. My attitude to the management did not change. I respected them."

Mr. Habib Oughlani, another wine waiter, who was also dismissed, said he played an active part in the union at the club. The hearing continues on May 10.

TO BE WON!
New Zealand Silver Jubilee Dollars
Coins & Medals, May issue, offers eleven prizes in a competition quiz. It also features a background to New Zealand coinage, leading coin & medals designer James Berry, 50 cent coins from the Pacific area. Plus investment advice and market guide etc.

coins and medals
MAY ISSUE OUT NOW

A LINK HOUSE PUBLICATION

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By Our Estates Correspondent
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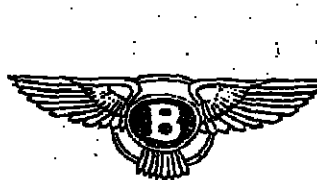
More home news, page 7

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- CARDIFF**
Howells Garages (Cardiff) Limited, Cowbridge Road West, Tel: (0222) 592363
- CARLISLE**
Appleyard (G&R) Limited, 63 Botchergate, Tel: (0318) 26151
- CHELTENHAM**
S.P. Broughton & Co. Limited, High Street, Tel: (0242) 553745/6
- CHESTER**
Henlys (North West) Limited, 14 City Road, Tel: (0244) 25243 and 313901
- CHICHESTER**
Wadhams Stringer (Chichester) Limited, West Hampnett Road, Tel: (0243) 82232-4
- COLWYNBAY**
Heron Colwyn Bay, 60 Princess Drive, Tel: (0492) 30322
- DOUGLAS**
Mann Egerton & Co. Limited, London Road, Tel: (0352) 47471
- DUNDEE**
Mykchrest Motors Limited, Westmacadam Road, Tel: (0824) 23481
- DUNDEE**
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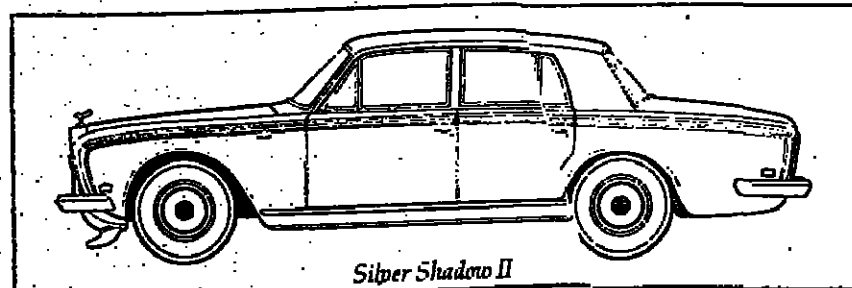
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Rolls-Royce and its new Shadow

What are the alternatives?

If you want to see in your car a uniquely harmonious blend of safety, silence, smoothness and speed; comfort, reliability, distinction and longevity.

If you want it to be an individual car perfectly tuned to your needs, your tastes and your personality. A car you will be able to drive further, faster, with less fuss and with less fatigue than you believe possible at this moment. A long-term asset in every sense of the word.



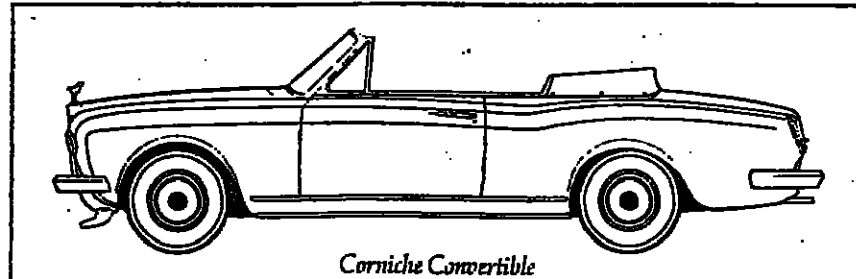
Silver Shadow II

If, in short, you want 'the best car in the world', then the alternatives are limited.

Should the elegant, ultra-refined Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow II not meet your requirements completely, one of the following probably will.

The Silver Wraith has an even larger rear passenger compartment than the Shadow, is available with or without a division, and has automatic air conditioning. The rear window is smaller for added privacy and the roof is covered in leathercloth.

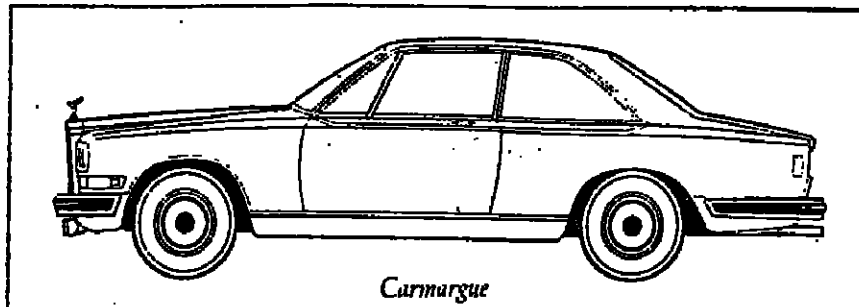
The Corniche is especially adapted to long-distance touring and can cruise effortlessly at speeds of up to 120 m.p.h. There is a two-door saloon and a convertible version with power-operated hood.



Corniche Convertible

The Phantom VI - a limousine in the grand manner, providing supremely luxurious transportation for up to five passengers. A car for the most important formal occasion.

Long, low and spacious, the striking Camargue two-door saloon is styled by Pininfarina with hand-built coachwork by

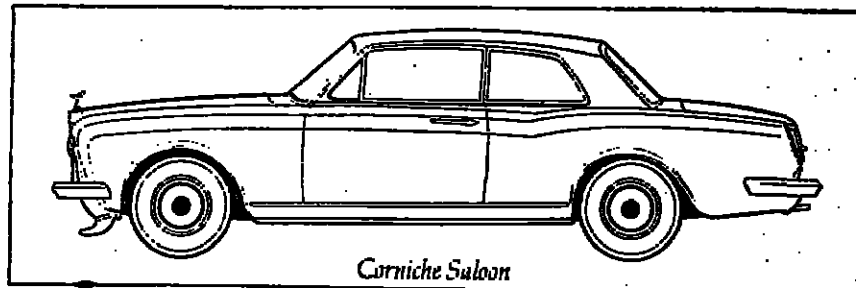


Camargue

The traditional Rolls-Royce mascot, radiator grill and badge are registered Trade Marks.

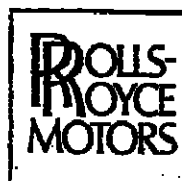
Mulliner Park Ward. The ultimate in comfort, grace and safety.

Finally, the Bentley counterparts of the Silver Shadow II and the Corniche saloon and convertible. Sporting in character with the distinctive radiator and winged 'B' mascot, historically identified with racing success.



Corniche Saloon

Admittedly the alternatives make your decision even more difficult. But a call on your Rolls-Royce Appointed Distributor will clarify your mind wonderfully. If you do not know him already, he is listed on the facing page.



Makers of the best car in the world.

HOME NEWS

Operations cancelled after porters strike at children's hospitals

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Two London hospitals for children were seriously affected yesterday by an industrial dispute involving porters and telephonists.

Operations at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Hackney have been cancelled today. The Great Ormond Street Hospital also faces disruption. Clerical workers last night volunteered to man the Queen Elizabeth Hospital switchboard and a limited service was being maintained at the Great Ormond Street switchboard.

The stoppage came after three members of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) at Great Ormond Street had been suspended on full pay after refusing to obey an order.

The union called out its members in both hospitals demanding that the men should be reinstated.

The Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) was called in yesterday and it is understood that an attempt to find a solution will be made this morning.

Medical staff have been forced to do porters' duties, such as wheeling patients to operating theatres, changing bandages and collecting specimens for laboratory tests.

Mr Stephen Parsons, assistant secretary at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, said: "If there is a real emergency we may have trouble. The porters walked out without making any emergency arrangements. We had very short notice that they were going."

Mr John Clark, branch secretary of the union, said last night that as chairman of the joint board of governors of the hospital, Mrs Callaghan, wife of

the Prime Minister, had been made aware of the suspension of the three men, but she had done nothing to help.

The dispute began when the men were told to get hospital records from the basement three inches deep in water. "It is normally a job done on overtime pay, but the hospital said it would no longer be like that," Mr Clark said.

Meanwhile, domestic staff involved in the Surrey hospitals' strike returned to work yesterday after agreeing to refer their dispute over duty rosters for 30 of them to an independent mediator.

The mediator was named last night as Professor George Bain, director of Warwick University's industrial relations research unit.

Two stoppages earlier in the day were settled after a few hours. The returning staff walked out of the Schiff Hospital, Cobham, because of the attitude of other domestic staff who belong to another union and who worked normally throughout the strike.

At the Manor Hospital, Epsom, centre of the dispute, some domestic staff stopped work pending a full explanation of the agreement. Most of those involved were Spanish, and translations of the agreement were drawn up.

Mr Michael Hargreave, chairman of the Surrey Area Health Authority, explained the deal yesterday to heads of department and nursing staff at three of the five hospitals involved. He appealed to workers to be patient and to give the agreement time to succeed.

Those involved in the dispute were members of the Transport and General Workers' Union. Members of the Confederation of Health Service Employees worked normally.

More Asian staff for child care proposed

By Diana Geddes

Greater involvement of the coloured community and recruitment of more blacks and Asians at children's homes are among recommendations made in a report of the Community Relations Commission on ways to cope with the needs of black and Asian children in care.

The report, published today, shows that although ethnic minorities form only 3.2 per cent of the population, black and Asian children account for about a third of those taken into care for reasons other than conflict with the law.

The report says there is a strong relationship between social deprivation and breakdown of families. Children, recruited into care come disproportionately from those areas with poverty, overcrowding and bad housing, and there is evidence that ethnic minority families are more likely than whites to live in such areas.

Three quarters of West Indian women go out to work compared with less than half the indigenous female population, which often means children are left alone. The absence of relatives in Britain, who might look after the children, adds to the difficulty.

A high proportion of West Indian families have no resident father.

Guidelines should be issued to local authorities on how to cope with the special needs of coloured children, the report says. In addition to recruiting more black staff, it recommends special training for staff at residential homes to develop an understanding of those needs.

A Home from Home? Some Considerations on Black Children in Residential Care (Community Relations Commission, 15-16 Bedford Street, London, WC21).



Jubilee overture: The Junior Band of the Royal Marines marching in Guildhall Yard yesterday to open the City of London's silver jubilee celebrations. The band comprises 40 boys aged between 17 and 19 who have completed training at the Royal Marines School of Music at Deal, Kent.

The 'great white elephant' hunters

Party that would like to abolish the Greater London Council

By Peter Godfrey

Billed as the first elected representatives likely to vote themselves out of office, "GLC Abolitionist" candidates will take their place alongside more familiar party ranks at the Greater London Council elections in May.

The campaign to abolish "London's great white elephant" which the abolitionists estimate will cost nearly £2,000m this year to keep alive, was launched yesterday by Mr Oliver Stutchbury, a former Labour alderman on the GLC. He hopes to find candidates for all 92 constituencies by the registration deadline of April 13, although only six nominations have been confirmed to date, including his own in Chelsea, "where I lived until last August, when I was driven out by the rates".

Mr Stutchbury was moved to disown his previous incarnation by experiences as vice-chairman of the GLC's policy

and resources committee from 1974 until his resignation from the council. "I had stomached the bureaucratic machine for too long, and could no longer stomach the prospect of advocating it."

The abolitionists' thesis is that the GLC constitutes a redundant layer of government between Whitehall and town hall, duplicating work that would be more efficiently and cheaply performed by individual boroughs. "Britain's madness is overgovernment, and the GLC is filled with politicians and bureaucrats performing no useful purpose at great expense," Mr Stutchbury said.

The campaign's manifesto claims that each new GLC council house puts £1,000 a year on the rate bill, that its unwieldy planning methods were embarrassingly exposed in the Greater London development plan, and that education in inner London lacks economies of scale.

The result, they say, is bureaucracy run riot, with

anomalies, such as the council debating support of London football teams—financial support—and having to rely on a centralized maintenance department to men council building radiators in an outlying borough.

The abolitionists' election tactics, issued from Individual House, Easbourne, are suitably idiosyncratic: "There is no need to go through the ritual dances of the professional parties with canvassing, etc. The important thing is not to bother people; they are quite intelligent enough to make up their own minds."

The response of London ratepayers, who are being urged to reserve their traditional party vote for a general election, has apparently been favourable. But, win or lose on May 5, the GLC Abolitionists' bid for power will be short-lived. In the utopian eventualities of their winning control, they will disappear and take the GLC with them.

London Liberals ready to negotiate after election

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The London Liberal Party is prepared to follow its Westminster counterpart and negotiate with either Labour or the Conservatives if the Greater London Council election on May 5 provides no overall control by one party.

That possibility emerged yesterday when the party launched its manifesto for the GLC election at County Hall. Mrs Ruth Shaw, campaign leader, one of the two Liberal members of the present council, and her colleagues were greeted at County Hall by Mr David Steel, the Liberal Party leader.

Their belief is that there will not be an overall majority and that they might then hold the balance of power. Mrs Shaw emphasized that they had not entered into any pacts with other parties.

"We have been very careful to preserve our independence. We have our own programme for London and that is what we want to see implemented. But we would be prepared to talk to the other parties and the result would depend on what approaches were made."

First, however, the Liberals have to hold the two seats they won in 1973, the first gained on the GLC by the party, and to execute a policy which, "Switch over to the London Liberal Programme", aims at

doing that by convincing the electorate of the need to cut out waste in money and resources at the GLC, make it a strategic regional authority, transfer the boroughs, and to bring the government of London closer to the people.

London is in limbo, they say with people moving out in droves. To maintain the present population level the priorities should be an immediate end to mass-municipalization, encouragement for town and village communities to flourish again, emphasis on keeping industry in London, and approval for dockland development.

Their attack on homelessness includes the establishment of a London-wide letting agency, leasing from private landlords on a fixed short-term basis, and then letting those in greatest need, which compares with Labour's proposal for a municipal estate agency handling private as well as council housing needs.

Copying the Liberal experiment in Liverpool, they would also lease empty council land, they maintain that at least 10,000 council-owned acres of land is available for house building financed by local building.

On transport, the Liberals propose a low fare system. They would also allow free travel before 7.30 am to spread the peak load and would coordinate bus, Tube and rail services.

Corruption case man to be candidate

A former dustman who was dismissed last June after being fined on corruption charges at the Central Criminal Court has been chosen by Kensington Labour Party as its prospective candidate in the Greater London Council elections next month.

Mr Anthony Sweeney, aged 45, who led a five-week strike by dustmen in Kensington and Chelsea, replaces Alderman Paddy O'Connor, chairman of the GLC's single-homesite sub-committee, who was dropped after the showing of a television documentary, *Goodbye, Longfellow Road*.

Mr O'Connor, aged 60, failed to give an assurance that financial aid to a housing association referred to in the documentary would be stopped.

Probation for theft

Mr Jack Wood, former secretary of Lancashire County Cricket Club, of Stafford Road, Eccles, who had admitted the theft of £850 while employed by Swinton social services department, was put on probation for two years at Manchester Crown Court yesterday.

Tower engines unsold

No firm offers had been received yesterday for the closing date for tenders, for two 1894 Tower Bridge engines which the Corporation of London is trying to sell for about £100,000.

Man set up raids on his post office

From Our Correspondent
St Albans

James Gammage, a sub-postmaster at Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, set up raids on his own post office, it was alleged at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, yesterday. In one of them, involving £12,000, the police found the safe empty and Mr Gammage bound and gagged, it was stated.

In another raid, the prosecution said, after stealing his own money, Mr Gammage locked himself in the lavatory, broke out and telephoned to the police. An accomplice was caught after one of the raids with the money in his possession. Mr Gammage had been acclaimed a hero for his action.

Mr Gammage, aged 29, of Heathbrow, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, 33, Murrey Road, Northwood, and Vincent Klein, aged 30, of Wingfield Way, South Ruislip, Greater London, pleaded guilty to the theft of £9,000 in cash and £3,000 in postal orders. Mr Gammage also pleaded guilty to three charges of false accounting and the theft of £5,772 from the post office. Mr Lawton also admitted possessing an imitation firearm.

Mr Peter Hunt, for the defence of Mr Gammage, said the offences arose because he got into financial difficulties. Mr Gammage was jailed for three years, and Mr Klein and Mr Lawton were jailed for one year each.

Police chief wins damages from newspaper

Mr Ronald Gregory, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, received an apology and damages in the High Court yesterday over a newspaper article that suggested that the Home Secretary had been asked to reprimand him.

Mr Gregory had sued *The Observer*, Mr Donald Treford, its editor, and Mr Michael Nally, a reporter. The damages they agreed to pay were not disclosed, but were said to be a four-figure sum.

Mr Michael Eady, for Mr Gregory, told Mr Justice Melford Stevenson that the article, published on May 9 last year, was about National Front activities in Bradford. It referred to clashes between the police and anti-fascist groups at a rally held in April.

Treasure find award

Three workmen who unearthed 52 silver coins from the second and third centuries while laying a gas main at Kemerton, near Bedford, have been awarded £534 each after a coroner's inquest had declared the coins treasure trove.

Accusations about colour prejudice in the theatre

Dame Peggy Ashcroft yesterday spoke in support of an allegation of colour prejudice in the theatre.

The accusation, against art foundations, theatre managers and backers, was made by four black entertainers. Their group, Radical Alliance of Poets and Players, received a minority rights group award at the National Theatre in London.

Dame Peggy, who presented the £250 prize, said: "The claim does not surprise, but it distresses me. I am sure there is truth in what they say, but I think they have also a built-in

Ulster homosexuality reform aim

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

The Government will come under pressure later this month to introduce sweeping social reforms to bring Northern Ireland's laws on homosexuality and divorce into line with those in the rest of the United Kingdom.

I understand that two confidential reports on possible changes will be presented to Mr Mason, the Secretary of State, in the next few weeks. Both have been prepared in the past six months by an influential government-sponsored body, the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights, and will outline the form the new laws might take.

The commission's reports were initially requested by the Government last July, after it became clear that Ulster was going to be ruled directly from Westminster for some time. It is now believed that its recommendations

will be acted on, in spite of objections from religious groups.

Although much is made by Ulster "loyalists" of their links with Britain, it is not widely recognized outside Northern Ireland that homosexual acts between consenting adults in the province still carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Similar penalties in Britain were abolished 10 years ago.

The operation of the law has become increasingly controversial in recent years, and last month 22 charges against homosexuals were dropped. A case of regional discrimination against the British Government is being pursued at the European Commission on Human Rights.

The commission's report is likely to recommend to Mr Mason that the 1967 Act that legalized homosexuality in the rest of Britain should be made to apply in Ulster.

On divorce, none of the far-reaching reforms introduced in Britain in 1971 applies to Northern Ireland. That means that a matrimonial offence of cruelty, adultery or desertion still has to be proved before a marriage can be dissolved.

Lord Dunleath has put forward a private member's Bill in the House of Lords to eliminate the anomalies and bring the law into line with the rest of the United Kingdom. Now that it has passed its second reading it stands virtually no chance of reaching the statute book without government support.

If Mr Mason accepts the standing commission's recommendations that some changes should be made, one alternative open would be to adopt Lord Dunleath's Divorce Reform (Northern Ireland) Bill. A final decision will be taken after both confidential reports have been formally presented.

Farm price deadlock upsets NFU

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Farmers' leaders told the Government yesterday that they were disappointed that it had blocked agreement about agricultural support prices for the EEC. Sir Henry Plumb, president of the National Farmers' Union, called for "common sense while it is still not too late to avert disaster".

He led a group from his union, the Ulster Farmers' Union, and the National Farmers' Union of Scotland to Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Mr Silkin has blocked agreement in Brussels about farm-support prices and there will be no decision until the end of April.

Eurovision Song Contest to be held next month

By Kenneth Goshing

The Eurovision Song Contest is to go ahead five weeks later than planned as a result of an agreement calling off the dispute over relegating BBC television to a place broadcast cameramen.

It will take place at Wembley on May 7. The BBC had been unable to guarantee transmission tomorrow, the advertised date, because of the dispute involving members of the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs.

Angela Rippon, the news reader, will co-ordinate the transmission live to 50 million people throughout Europe. The cameramen's dispute, which is over £3 a week, will go to a tribunal of an independent chairman and a representative from each of the two sides. The union has agreed to take no further "highground" strike action.

Both sides will consider the advice given by the tribunal, the BBC said yesterday, and may amend it by mutual consent within a month. Otherwise they will agree to the tribunal's advice being implemented.

Business Diary page 21

Crown Agent man for trial

Bernard Wheatley, aged 47, the former money market manager to the Crown Agents, of Aston Clinton Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, was committed on bail of £15,000 for trial at Central Criminal Court yesterday, on four corruption charges involving more than £1.5m.

Mother loses action to get back son

A mother's attempt to win back her son, aged 12, from the family friend who had raised and eventually adopted him was blocked by Mr Justice Layton in the Family Division of the High Court yesterday.

The boy's Irish parents had consented to his adoption by the benefactor, who, five years earlier, had brought him to England and became both father and tutor to him. Then the natural father, a drunken, aggressive man, died and his widow came to England to become the adopter's housekeeper. The relationship soured and she went to live in Switzerland.

She had now issued a wardship summons seeking care and control of the boy.

The mother's summons was dismissed.

Four years for attackers of old woman

Two unemployed men who took part in an attack on an elderly, partially sighted woman who lived alone were both sentenced by Judge Geraint Rees at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to four years' imprisonment.

John Anthony Tracey, aged 20, and Edmund Joseph Flanagan, aged 19, both of Frampton Street, Paddington, London, were found guilty of robbing Miss Rose Woods, aged 70, of money from her meters and a transistor radio at her flat in Hanton Street, Paddington, last April. Jacqueline Salmon, aged 15, of Hall Place, Paddington, was also found guilty of the robbery. She was remanded in custody for social inquiry reports.

Students vote to uphold ban on 'fascist' speakers

From Judith Judd, of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, Blackpool

The National Union of Students voted yesterday to uphold its policy of stopping "fascists and racists" from speaking at colleges.

Its conference in Blackpool rejected by 182-330 votes to 154-033 advice from the executive to change a policy of denying a platform to "fascists", which has been held by the union since June, 1974.

The executive argued that the policy of "no platform" had made it harder to mobilize students against racism and fascism. It said the conference should adopt a policy of "no invitation", urging students not to invite fascist speakers but to refrain from disrupting meetings that might take place.

The present policy stops short of violence but supports physical prevention of meetings addressed by such speakers by pickets or occupations.

Mr Charles Clarke, the president, said after the debate that keeping speakers out was not a priority in the union's fight against racism.

Mr Michael Forsyth, chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students, said the executive's policy was still a fundamental denial of free speech.

The conference rejected two earlier amendments demanding a denial of a platform to fascists.

Mr Steven Moon, the only Conservative member of the executive, said the "no platform" policy helped to encourage race hatred.

Falling birth rate 'may halt growth of universities'

Universities and polytechnics may risk being run down like colleges of education because of the declining birth rate, the Conference of University Administrators says.

In a report on predicting higher education numbers, presented at the body's annual conference in Swansea today, it says the 18-year-old age group will fall by almost a third between 1982 and 1995.

The nation's needs for more doctors, lawyers, architects, engineers and social workers, some of the most buoyant areas of demand in universities, may decline like that for teachers.

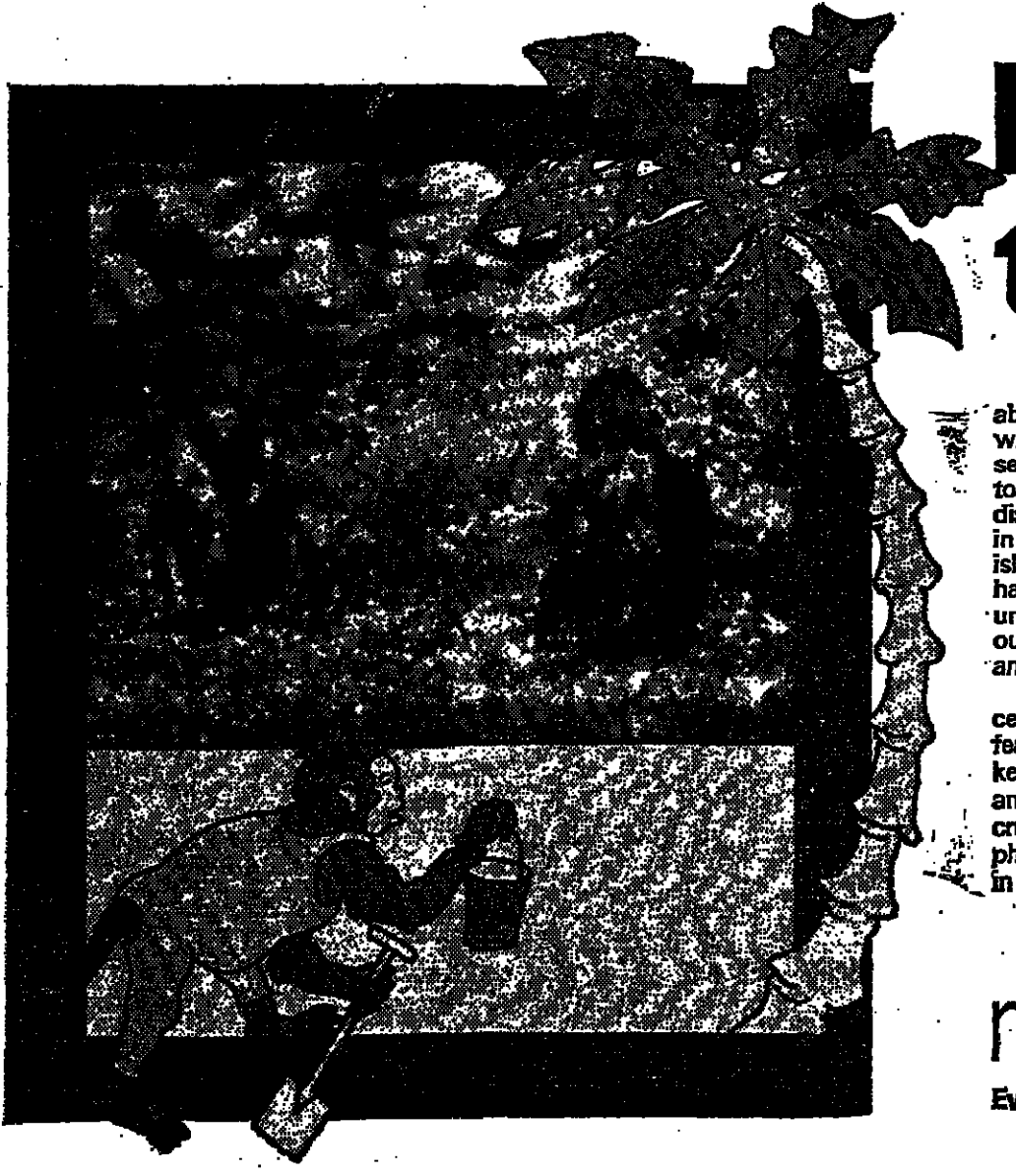
The report, by a group of 14 chaired by Mr M. L. Shattock, academic registrar of Warwick University, urges universities and polytechnics to think about the prospect now. It calls for a joint committee

of the appropriate government departments and all parts of higher education to monitor statistics on demand for higher education.

Interim Report on Student Numbers by the Conference of University Administrators (from Mr M. G. Paulson-Ellis, secretary (academic administration), University of Strathclyde, George Street, Glasgow G1 1XW, 50p).

Into the 1980s

Frances Gibb reports on the effect of the falling birth rate on the universities in the 1980s; Heinz Lubasz discusses the influence of Aristotle on Marx; and John Dutton reviews Melvin Laskey's *Utopia and Revolution*, all in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today.



Monkeys at the seaside

What can be more innocent than splashing about at the seaside? We humans call it fun. But what is it when monkeys do it? Do they have a sense of fun, too? Or is such behaviour designed to fulfil a more serious purpose? For a fascinating discussion of these questions read Carol Berman in this week's *New Scientist*. On the undisturbed island colony of Cayo Santiago, Puerto Rico, she has been paying close attention to the way uninhibited rhesus monkeys play in the sea. Like ourselves they fool about, paddle, splash, jump, and dive from handy trees.

New Scientist this week also celebrates the centenary of the Royal Institute of Chemistry; features a bold attack on the Third World marketing methods of a well-known drug company; analyses perceptual bias in science; describes a crucial "bench-top" experiment in particle physics; and recounts some strange goings on in Wales...

newscientist

Every Thursday 30p.

WEST EUROPE

Tenerife inquiry into 'TV at air control'

From Harry Debelius Santa Cruz de Tenerife, March 31.
Mr William Haley, head of the United States team investigating last Sunday's air disaster here, said today that his investigators "intended to check out" a report that there might have been a television set in the control tower at Los Rodeos airport.

At an airport news conference he was asked: "Can you comment on a report that there was a TV set in the control tower and that the Spanish controllers were watching a football game at the time of the accident?"
Mr Haley replied: "I have heard of that rumour. We have no information or no basis in fact that that was the circumstance."

Mr Haley was then asked: "Does that mean there was no TV set in the control tower?"
He replied: "We have no information to establish that. We intend to check it out as a matter of routine."

More than 570 people were killed in the disaster, when a KLM Boeing 747 jumbo jet collided on the runway with a Pan American jumbo.

The black boxes and tapes recording the events that led up to the crash left here today on board a Spanish military aircraft, bound for Washington via Madrid.

Mr Haley said that the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recordings from both aircraft, as well as the control tower recordings, were all on board and would be flown to Washington under the custody of a Spanish official.



Mr Victor Grubbs, pilot of the Pan American jumbo jet in the Tenerife air disaster, recuperating at an army hospital in Fort Dix, New Jersey.

The "read out" of the tapes and data recorders, he said, would begin next Monday at 10.30 Washington time in the presence of representatives of Spain, the Netherlands and the United States and of the Pan American and KLM airlines. Pan American and KLM flight crews would also be asked to attend the session to help identify the voices on the tapes and to explain their understanding of certain communications between the control tower and the pilots, he said.

Mr Haley said that the Spanish traffic controllers, who were in the tower at the time of the disaster, had been questioned by members of the

various investigating teams about their understanding of the messages exchanged between pilots and controllers, the taxi-ways, taxi-way lighting, the weather and their understanding of take-off clearance.

Another source, who is in a position to know what went on at the meeting of the investigating committees, told *The Times* that the controllers had also been asked if they had been momentarily distracted by anything at the time of the crash. The controllers are said to have told the investigators that there were no distractions but that visibility was limited.

Amsterdam: KLM called on the Spanish civil aviation authority today to repudiate press reports that blame the disaster on the veteran Dutch pilot of their aircraft.
A spokesman said: "We are very distressed by these reports which are nothing more than rumours."

A Dutch investigator reported that according to a check made of control tower recordings, the KLM pilot, Captain Veldhuizen van Zanten, began take-off without getting final clearance from the tower. The investigator added, however, that more information was needed before blame could be apportioned for the disaster. His caution has been omitted in many accounts.—AP.

OVERSEAS

Dr Kaunda accuses West of helping spread of communist influence in Africa by 'siding with racists'

From Nicholas Ashford Lusaka, March 31.
President Kaunda of Zambia today made a strong and at times emotional attack on Britain and other Western nations for their failure to end white minority rule in Rhodesia, Namibia (South-west Africa) and South Africa.

In an interview with *The Times* he said that if the West was not concerned about the spread of communist influence in southern Africa it had only itself to blame.
President Kaunda was speaking less than two days after President Podgorny of the Soviet Union had ended a guest visit to Zambia, the first by a Soviet leader to southern Africa.

The Zambian leader also rejected the proposals by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, leader of the United African National Council (UANC), for a referendum in Rhodesia; namely, rejected the Turnhalle conference on the future of Namibia; and ruled out any possibility of another meeting between him and Mr Vorster, the South African leader, to try to resolve the problems of southern Africa.

The president said the task facing Zambia and the other front-line states was clear. It was to continue the armed struggle in Rhodesia and Namibia against apartheid in South Africa.
"If it is a choice between peace in slavery and armed conflict then we will choose armed conflict until genuine peace is established," he said.

Mr Kaunda said that the people of southern Africa were not interested in wealth and materialism. They were interested in freedom and the right to live in a free society.

He said that the West was helping the spread of communist influence in Africa by siding with racists.

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Mr Vance briefs London on arms talks

By David Spenser
Diplomatic Correspondent
Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, gave Mr Callaghan, the Prime Minister, a report on his talks in Moscow, when he arrived in London last night.

Today Mr Vance will see Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, and join him at a working lunch, before flying on to Paris.

The principal topic discussed at Downing Street was the Soviet Union's somewhat discouraging attitude on arms control in his meeting at the Foreign Office today, Mr Vance will be more concerned about the future of strategic arms limitation talks between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Speaking after a meeting of the Socialist International's bureau in London, he said that his guess was that both countries would be trying to find a solution before the autumn. He was also hopeful about progress on détente.

Gretel Spitzer writes from Bonn: After four hours of discussions with Mr Vance, Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, said that it was wrong to speak of a "breakdown" of American-Soviet talks on arms control.

"Our American friends as well as the Russians are of the opinion that this is by no means the end of the road," he told the press.

Herr Schmidt referred to the agreement to set up working groups that would review a number of outstanding problems. He believed that the United States and the Soviet Union desire in their own interest to achieve a new agreement on arms control. But a single meeting could not be expected to lead to tangible results.

Leading article, page 15

Commission to prevent further sales of subsidized butter to Russia

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, March 31.
Appropriate measures will be taken by the European Commission to prevent the subsidized sale to the Soviet Union or other East European countries of any substantial quantities of butter, it was announced here today.

The announcement came in response to reports that Moscow is negotiating with West German suppliers for delivery of between 30,000 and 35,000 tonnes of butter. A Commission spokesman confirmed that the Russians are in the market for further supplies.

If any applications for export subsidies to finance sales of this order to East Europe were received, they would be refused, the spokesman said.

He added: "This would be in line with the decision in early March that no such subsidies would be authorized for sales to East Europe for the foreseeable future."

Under the EEC's "pre-fixing" system, a trader is guaranteed the level of subsidy he will receive on a future export deal up to at least five months ahead.

Without the subsidy it would not be possible to sell butter on the world market, where prices are presently about a third of the EEC level.

Mr Roy Jenkins, the president of the European Commission, ran into criticism earlier this month for alleged discrimination in suspending the pre-fixing facility for traders wishing to sell surplus butter to East Europe.

The Commission contends that its purpose is not to discriminate between different destinations but to strike a more even balance between internal and external markets in the disposal of surplus butter.

Mr Jenkins and Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the Commissioner for Agriculture, argue that after the granting in February of pre-fixed subsidies for the export of 36,000 tonnes of

Munich court jails hijacker of Czech plane

From Our Correspondent Bonn, March 31.
Rudolf Bescvar, a 26-year-old Czech labourer, was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment by a Munich court today for hijacking a Czechoslovak airliner and detaining its passengers against their will.

Mr Bescvar, who used a sub-machinegun to force the pilot of a CSA airliner to fly to Munich last October, had not been the victim of such grave political persecution, in the court's opinion, as to justify his extreme action.

Although there was "something quite genuine" in his yearning for freedom, the court ruled that his ideas of freedom must be "rather nebulous" if he thought he could gain freedom by depriving the 105 passengers of their.

Mr Bescvar said that he hijacked the airliner because he was denied permission to leave Czechoslovakia legally.

and stomach, and according to some versions, raped again.

She is now in hospital, where she is expected to stay for two weeks.

Rome, March 31.—Signorina Caputi has become, with the encouragement of Women's Liberation groups, the centre of a national test case on rape.

In Italy, many rape victims prefer not to bring charges so as to avoid humiliating interrogations about their past sex lives and insinuations that they encouraged the men.

Women's Liberation groups have called a mass demonstration for tonight to protest against the attack on Signorina Caputi, which they feel discourages other women from reporting rape cases.

A spokesman said: "If the police don't catch these criminals we will go and get them ourselves."

The groups are fighting for rape charges to be taken more seriously and better treatment for victims by police and courts.—Reuter.

She was dragged and cut with knives all over her face, breasts

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NZ policy on sporting links with S Africa defended

By Roger Bernhond
Mr Robert Muldoon, the New Zealand Prime Minister, yesterday defended his Government's policy on sporting contacts with South Africa with characteristic robustness.

Mr Muldoon's long talk with Mr Callaghan on Wednesday evening, and a subsequent dinner at 10 Downing St, did not appear to have greatly softened his attitude.

But addressing a Foreign Press Association luncheon yesterday, he laid emphasis on his Government's abhorrence of apartheid, and his pride in New Zealand's record in support of human rights.

Mr Callaghan is concerned less the conference of Commonwealth heads of government in London in June should be sidetracked by this issue.

New Zealanders lived in an isolated part of the world, Mr Muldoon said, and cherished the freedom to travel and receive visitors from overseas.

Any government interference with the freedom to take part in sport would be a significant extension of state power.

But the Government was ready to give advice, regarding those concerned of its abhorrence of the "policy and practices of apartheid in all its manifestations, including the selection of sports teams"; of the will of the international community as expressed in

United Nations resolutions; of the interest of other sporting bodies; and of the effect of any decision on the national interest.

"Since the Olympic Games there have been no significant sporting exchanges between South Africa and New Zealand, and my reading of the situation suggests that public opinion in New Zealand has moved to a point where there will be none in the future, or at least until we see change."

"We have made it clear time and again... that we cannot accept apartheid as the very antithesis of our own system of racial cooperation, and that we want to see apartheid brought to an end." Anything less than totally integrated sport could only be seen as a subterfuge by South Africa to get the best of both worlds.

Mr Muldoon whose National Party came to power in November, 1975, agreed with a questioner that he would find it "repulsive" to sit down at the same table as President Amin of Uganda at the Commonwealth conference. And he thought that the British Government was under no obligation to let "that man" come to Britain.

"As far as I am concerned it would be abhorrent if he were in any way associated with the silver jubilee of our Queen."

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Smith forces suffer biggest monthly death toll

From Michael Knappe Salisbury, March 31.
Rhodesian Government forces suffered their highest monthly losses so far in March with 29 troops dying in action against African nationalist guerrillas.

The ratio of deaths, the Rhodesians claim, was six guerrillas for every soldier, although they say the overall ratio remains 11 to one.

The heavy rainy season, now drawing to a close, has hampered Government forces by obliterating the tracks of the guerrillas and hindering troop movements. As the weather changes and the insurgents are deprived of cover, military sources predict that the security forces will become more effective.

It is believed in some quarters, however, that there may be an increase in guerrilla activity to coincide with the forthcoming visit to southern Africa of Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary.

A military communiqué today said that Vila Salazar on the Mozambique border had been subjected to mortar, rocket and small arms fire from Mozambique on six occasions in the past 19 days. There were no casualties or damage.

Our New York Correspondent writes: There has been a sharp increase over the past year in border incidents between Rhodesia and Botswana. United Nations report stated today.

The authors, a committee sent to Botswana after a complaint to the United Nations last year, said they had seen evidence of destruction on the Botswana side of the border.

The committee estimates that Botswana will need more than \$50m (about £25.5m) over three years to deal with the crisis, of more than half in refugee relief, the police mobile unit, Botswana's only military force, and taking care of refugees.

The report says Botswana is running into economic difficulties as a result of accepting all refugees from Rhodesia and South Africa.

then ask the South African Government to make a commitment to end apartheid, grant independence and free elections to the Bantu homelands in support for the Smith regime in Rhodesia.

Such an approach, western delegates believe, would be more effective in bringing about change than a clash in New York over the African draft resolution.

The four African resolutions call for a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa, a declaration that its policies are a threat to international peace and security, an end to investment in, or loans to, South Africa, and an end to apartheid.

A mandatory arms embargo has been vetoed by Britain, France and the United States in the past on the grounds that it would open the way to economic sanctions. A declaration that South Africa was a threat to peace would take the process even further, providing the grounds for economic and even military action by the United Nations.

Mr Botha has admitted that his draft Bill is not normal law, but "because we are not living in normal times. The situation is such that the authorities do not wish to be caught on the wrong foot," he stated.

Baader-Meinhof judge bans bugging at jail

From Our Correspondent Bonn, March 31.
Bugging in Stammheim prison was forbidden today by Herr Eberhard Foth, the presiding judge at the trial of suspected leaders of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist group.

In a letter to the Ministry of Justice of Baden-Württemberg read in court today, he stated that his ruling had priority over all other considerations including measures about the prevention of crimes.

Herr Foth said that he would take the necessary precautions to see that the order was being enforced. In answer to questions by the defence he said that this also applied to the Minister of Justice.

Some of the defendants and their sympathizers held in Stammheim and Hamburg were today continuing their hunger strike begun on Tuesday in protest against the conditions of detention.

Rome attack on rape test case girl

From Our Own Correspondent Rome, March 31.
The Socialists today put down a parliamentary question demanding that the Minister of Justice should explain what steps the Government intended to take in the case of an 18-year-old girl kidnapped last night in Rome and disfigured by youths who she claims were among a group which had raped her last summer.

The girl, Claudia Caputi, was raped last August by 16 youths. Seven of the 16 were arrested and their trial opened on Saturday.

At the trial she demanded the reporting restrictions be lifted and revealed that she had been threatened with death by the families of the arrested men if she did not withdraw the rape charges.

Yesterday she recorded an interview for television about her experiences. Her lawyer drove her back to the centre of Rome and left her in a bar.

According to Signorina Caputi's account, she saw three men waiting for her outside

the bar. They belonged to the gang that had raped her in the summer, but had not been arrested. She tried to flee, but fell on the wet pavement and was pushed into a car.

She was dragged and cut with knives all over her face, breasts

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EEC wants to widen aid scheme for poor nations

From David Cross Brussels, March 31.
EEC governments today received a formal request from the European Commission to promote worldwide adoption of the Community's scheme to stabilize the export earnings of developing countries.

Announcing this in Brussels today, M Claude Cheysson, the Commissioner for development aid, said that he hoped the Nine would agree to the widening of the scheme by the time full-scale talks between industrialized and developing countries on a new world economic order resume in Paris in May.

The Community's so-called "Stabex" scheme, which is part of the Lomé convention with 52 developing countries in

M Giscard's new Cabinet excites little enthusiasm

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, March 31.
France's revamped "Government of action" met today with expressions of hope from President Giscard d'Estaing, but in an atmosphere of disenchantment, with no end in sight to the ruling parties' interminable squabbles.

Outlining the objectives of his new team led by M Barre, the Prime Minister, the President said the first was to overcome the economic problems facing the country and the second to draw up a programme to confront the socio-political divergences that had been made so obvious in the recent municipal elections.

M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, still smarting over

the President's recent tactics and his victory in the election in Paris, had made it clear that he is less than satisfied with the cabinet changes. He told his supporters at Les Baux de Provence, that what the Government majority needed was action and not merely declarations of intent.

The opposition's reaction was predictable. Rightly, they see the Cabinet change as an attempt to mend fences within the ruling parties. M Barre's economic rallying cry, restated so forcefully by the President and the Prime Minister with the announcement of the new Government, has not carried much weight with either the Socialists or the Communists.

His wife, Marlene, dressed in lawyer's robes, had crossed him a revolver and brandished a grenade to enable him to escape. She received a five-year sentence today for complicity.

Last Friday, M Willoquet, a former hairdresser, was sentenced to 20 years for a series of armed robberies, while his wife received five years for her part in the attacks. All the sentences will run concurrently.—Reuter.

Britain may ban visit by President Amin

A rather firmer line is being taken by the Foreign Office on the proposal by President Amin of Uganda to attend the Commonwealth conference in June.

It will be up to the Government to decide whether to allow President Amin to enter the country, according to Mr Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office. In a letter to Mr Alec Buchanan-Smith, former shadow Scottish Secretary, Mr Rowlands points out that Dr Owen is now taking soundings of Commonwealth opinion, which the Government will take into account before the time in making its decision.

Up to now, the Foreign Office had implied that if President Amin chose to come here, there was no way of preventing him.

South Africa's two biggest white trade union organisations—the Trade Union Council of South Africa and the right-wing Confederation of Labour, each with 200,000 members—are planning urgent approaches to

Pretoria Bill denies strike right

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg, March 31.
There is a growing threat of confrontation between the Government and organized white labour in South Africa over a Bill which, if it becomes law, will give the Minister of Labour power to ban strikes totally.

The Bill, which Mr Fanie Botha, the Minister of Labour, intends to introduce in the present Parliamentary session, will empower him to declare that any industry constitutes an essential service. This means that should a dispute arise, he can forbid a strike.

South Africa's two biggest white trade union organisations—the Trade Union Council of South Africa and the right-wing Confederation of Labour, each with 200,000 members—are planning urgent approaches to

the minister and are considering joint action.

The powerful Mine Workers' Union executive is also meeting to discuss its attitude to the draft Bill and a recent report that a commission of inquiry which proposed an 11-day working fortnight in the mines instead of the five-day week miners have long demanded.

It is believed that Mr Botha's draft Bill was conceived after a strike threat by the miners over the five-day issue last year.

The strike, which would have had a crippling effect on South Africa's economy, was averted at the last minute after direct intervention by Dr Piet Koornhof, who was then Minister of Mines.

South Africa already has a battery of industrial laws which make strikes extremely rare. Strikes may only be called legally if a complicated procedure of arbitration fails.

Mr Botha has admitted that his draft Bill is not normal law, but "because we are not living in normal times. The situation is such that the authorities do not wish to be caught on the wrong foot," he stated.

OVERSEAS

Japan orders trawler fleet to leave Soviet coast urgently

From Peter Hazellhurst
Tokyo, March 31

Japan today ordered hundreds of its fishing ships to move out of traditional trawling grounds around the Soviet Union by midnight tonight. An emergency radio warning was broadcast when negotiations on a new interim fishing agreement between Tokyo and Moscow broke down in deadlock over longstanding territorial disputes.

A Government spokesman said that at least 125 of the 700 Japanese ships which normally operate off the Soviet Coast had been contacted. The current Soviet-Japanese interim agreement expires at midnight.

Japan does not have the jurisdiction over its coastal waters to warrant reciprocal measures against Russian ships, should Japanese trawlers be harassed. But the situation became tense today when Japanese patrol boats took the unusual step of following a Soviet merchant ship which sailed close to Japan's three mile territorial waters.

The Russian ship was summoned by loudspeaker but failed to answer. It was then a major controversy between Tokyo and Moscow this week, has already touched off a mood of anti-Soviet resentment here.

The talks on a new interim fishing agreement broke down earlier this week after the Soviet Union insisted that the declaration must carry veiled

political clauses, which would in effect prejudice Japan's claims to four northern islands, formerly Japanese, which were occupied by Soviet troops at the end of the Second World War.

The Soviet team of negotiators, who returned to Moscow today, also insisted that Russian fishing vessels must be allowed to operate within Japan's territorial waters after the Government extends its jurisdiction over coastal waters from a three to a 12-mile limit later this year.

Soviet delegates apparently warned officials in Tokyo this week that Japanese fishing vessels operating within the new 20-mile zone would be impounded unless a new interim agreement was concluded by midnight today.

After two weeks of uncompromising negotiations, described as "bitter and difficult", the Soviet delegation, led by Mr Ivan Nikonov, boycotted talks two days ago and returned to Moscow today.

As the issue threatened to impair relations between the two countries, Mr Fukuda, the Japanese Prime Minister, decided today to dispatch his chief Cabinet secretary, Mr Sunao Sonoda, to Moscow tomorrow for urgent talks with Soviet leaders.

Russian fishing vessels will continue to operate off Japan's coast but it is believed that if the stalemate continues, the Japanese Government will introduce reciprocal measures which the country extends its territorial waters to 12 miles and ratifies a proposed 200-mile fishing zone in Parliament during the next three months.

Congress goes on with hunt for assassins

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, March 31

The House of Representatives committee on assassinations is now trying to resume work, after the two-week reprieve it won from the House yesterday. It will have to find a new counsel to replace Mr Richard Sprague who resigned to save it from annihilation. It will have to get funds from the House and it will have to try to persuade people that it is not engaged in sensation-seeking foolishness.

This last endeavour is off to a shaky start. A Russian-born French teacher from Dallas, Texas, who met Lee Oswald (the man who shot President Kennedy), apparently committed suicide on Tuesday after learning that he was to appear before the committee. A member of the committee promptly announced that the man, Mr George de Mohrenschildt, might have been an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency and "may have been close to Oswald than appeared."

Mr de Mohrenschildt, like everyone else who knew Oswald, was lengthily examined by the Warren Commission in 1964 and had been frequently interrogated by conspiracy theorists after that. He had a record of mental instability and apparently killed himself to avoid further persecution. At the time of the Kennedy murder (and for months before that) he was in Haiti.

The committee was set up at the inquiry of black congressmen last year chiefly to investigate the murder of Dr Martin Luther King. The lunacies of the Kennedy conspiracy theorists, of whom there are a number on the committee, have cast a deep shadow over it.

Mr Sprague, a celebrated prosecutor from Philadelphia, was appointed counsel by the committee's first chairman—a congressman who retired at the end of last year after arranging for more than a dozen of his former employees to be hired by the committee.

As soon as the new Congress assembled on January 2, the committee began to collapse. Mr Henry Gonzalez, the new chairman, tried to dismiss Mr Sprague, but instead was himself obliged to resign.

Now Mr Gonzalez has had his revenge. In a slashing attack on Mr Sprague, delivered on the floor of the House on Monday, he succeeded in inflicting so much damage that Mr Sprague's position was finally destroyed.

Mr Gonzalez, who is of Mexican origin, accused the House of racial prejudice against him. He said: "I conclude dolefully and sadly that had my last name been Jorge or O'Brien, Rosenthal, George Washington Carver or Martin Luther King, I would not have been treated this shabbily."

He gave the game away by describing the reality behind one of Mr Sprague's claims to have found secret evidence about President Kennedy's assassination. "No fundamental plan of any consequence has ever been breached, other than something quite ephemeral. For instance, they were talking about the evidence that the FBI agent who lives over the Canadian border, and he was going to be a big secret witness."

The witness, of course, had already appeared before the Church committee and the committee of the House (on intelligence matters), and so his testimony was actually repetitious. The committee, under its new chairman, wants \$2,750,000 (\$2,500,000) to see it through its first year's operations.



Amy Carter, aged nine, the President's daughter, kicking a ball at the state elementary school she has attended since her family moved to Washington.

Vandals and addicts take over charred wastelands created by the flames

New York City ravaged by fire as urban disease of arson consolidates its hold

From Peter Strafford
New York, March 31

A losing battle is being fought in the Bronx, Brooklyn and other New York boroughs against one of the most recent urban diseases—arson.

Over the past few years, long rows of buildings have been reduced to empty shells, or levelled altogether, in certain areas.

Any visitor to the south Bronx can see the empty hulks of buildings, with their windows still charred. Alongside them are empty stretches of waste ground filled with rubbish and an occasional abandoned car.

At one time, the phenomenon was limited to the southernmost part of the borough, across the Harlem river from Manhattan. But it has now spread farther and farther north, creating more waste areas with their populations of squatters, youth gangs and drug addicts.

When I visited a fire station in East 143rd Street recently, the firemen, almost all of them white, told me that none of

them would want to live in the neighbourhood. Some of them had grown up there, but they now lived some distance away, in areas that were less run down.

It was usually easy, they said, to tell which fires had been started deliberately because of such signs as petrol marks. They never saw the arsonists.

What usually happens is that a fire is started in one flat, perhaps a vacant one, or an otherwise occupied one. Then there is another, and another, and before long most of the tenants decide to move out, the landlord stops taking any interest, and the whole building becomes prey to local vandals.

Most of the inhabitants of the south Bronx are blacks and Puerto Ricans, and there are a lot of hard-working and honest people among them. Around East 143rd Street, for instance, there are several new housing developments. But all too often, they are helpless victims of the progressive decay of the area,

and the increase in crime and vandalism.

At the headquarters of the New York fire department, Mr John Barracato, the chief of the Bronx, says that there are three main types of arsonist: those who do it to extract some sort of revenge; those who have an economic motive; and those who start fires "for fun," usually youth gangs, or people with pathological motives.

Revenge, Mr Barracato said, had accounted for about 60 per cent of the arson cases which his department had investigated in 1976. Sometimes, it was a gang which wanted to attack another gang's headquarters. Other times, it was a husband or wife who started a fire in their flat after a violent argument.

There had been a case of teenagers setting fire to a club after being refused admission, and another of a man who had done the same because his girl friend had gone to a dance with someone else.

But arson for economic motives was catching up. Mr Barracato said.

This sort of arsonist could be a landlord who felt that he was no longer making enough money because of rent controls, and wanted the insurance money. It could be an unemployed person who would be given money to move if his home was burnt. It could be a shopkeeper whose stock was obsolete or too large, or an addict who wanted to steal the plumbing and fixtures after a building had been destroyed.

It was very difficult to catch arsonists, Mr Barracato said, as they worked quietly in the middle of the night. In 1976, for instance, his department had investigated 6,779 arson cases and had made only 357 arrests.

Yet, in many ways, the Bronx, for all its bad reputation, was not the worst part of New York for fires. Mr Barracato said. Overall, Brooklyn had more cases of arson.

Television to record President's workday

From Our Own Correspondence
Washington, March 31

President Carter is to allow television cameras into the White House during the week of April 4 to produce a one-hour programme entitled *A Day in the Life of the President*.

The proposal for the programme, from the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), was snapped up by the eager White House.

It seemed ideal for purposes of bringing the President closer to the people, Mr Barry Jagoda, the President's special assistant for media and public affairs, said. "There isn't any other way we can open the White House to millions of people to let them see what the President does all day and what an incredibly busy schedule he keeps."

The White House has recently disclosed that Mr Carter is not practising what he preaches in admonishing his staff to get home in time to spend a while with their families. His average working week so far has been 71 hours.

Mr Carter, who promised during his election campaign to stay in touch with the ordinary people, is exerting himself to find as many ways as possible of doing so.

His radio "phone-in" was widely acclaimed, as was his rather syrupy performance at the Clinton town meeting.

It is not clear how natural and unartificial a day in his life can be made to seem. The last time something similar was tried was at the Ford's banquet for the Queen last summer and it was a television disaster.

The Nixon's also has the cameras in once to show the family Christmas, and it turned out to be a memorable for a stiff, unconvincing performance from the President as he sat down on the floor as if he were doing it for the first time.

Usually this kind of thing has been done in written format. Mr John Hersey, the author, did a notably incisive piece on Mr Ford in office and journalists are still at it. Last week, when Mr William Rees-Mogg, the editor of *The Times*, met Mr Bert Lance, the powerful Director of the Office of Management and Budget, an American reporter sat in, taking notes for his report on Mr Lance's busy day.

Ethiopians post a long list of wanted men

Addis Ababa, March 31—A

list of men and women wanted for being opposed to the Ethiopian military leadership appeared here for the first time bearing their photographs, names and occupations. The list, which comprises some 755 names, includes Mr Dagnew Yrgu, a former Minister of Agriculture, who abandoned his post and disappeared two years ago. It also includes paramilitary, students, teachers, factory workers and airline, bank and insurance staff, who were reported missing from their jobs.

The list was posted in main government offices throughout Addis Ababa today.

A notice accompanying it said that those listed were engaged in counter-revolutionary activities and were to be hunted down with the help of the population. They were to be turned over to the police, farmers' association or kebele (sub-district) defence squads.

Those on the list who have enrolled in schools or colleges have been told to notify the Military Council immediately.

It is believed that many are roaming the countryside and their photographs are being distributed in order to help to have been labour leaders who went underground fearing government repression in connection with planned but unsuccessful strikes last September which fizzled out.

The authorities have arrested and expelled two black Americans accused of spying for the Central Intelligence Agency, the English-language newspaper *The Ethiopian Herald* reported.

Mr Richard Hammond and Mr Carl Edwin Hamilton were

caught in the north western province of Begemdir on March 23 while engaged in espionage on behalf of the London-based rightist Ethiopian Democratic Union, according to the report.

The union has widespread support in Begemdir, bordering on Sudan. There have been frequent clashes there between union and government forces in the past few months.

The newspaper alleged that the two men had admitted working for the CIA. They had airline tickets in readiness for leaving the country in a hurry as well as credit cards, all provided by the CIA.

An American Embassy spokesman in Addis Ababa denied that the two were employed by it and would not comment further.

A house-to-house search for firearms launched in Addis Ababa a week ago, has unearthed at least 1,600 weapons including sub-machine guns, rifles and pistols, press reports said today.

The weapons, together with an unspecified amount of ammunition, were turned over to the military authorities within the past two days. The search still goes on but with less intensity.

Eight people, including an alleged leader of the underground Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party, Mr Tesfaye Debassai, have so far been killed while resisting the search.

A number of people are believed to have been arrested. The Government said yesterday that it had set up two committees to investigate complaints "concerning persons arrested unfairly" and "properties unfairly taken away" by search teams.—Agence France-Press.

Chinese city hit by tremor is still in ruins

Peking, March 31—The city

of Tangshan, the centre of last year's earthquake in northern China, is little more than an enormous pile of rubble, foreign travellers reported today.

They were the first foreigners to visit the disaster area since the earthquake last July which killed more than 700,000 people and left 800,000 injured.

The travellers said that the only new construction apparent was at the railway station. In places debris was three storeys high. Rooms of white-washed shelters had been put up in the suburbs for workers.

The scene was "like the worst pictures of wartime bomb damage", one eyewitness said. At first glance we could not distinguish buildings from debris but after a while wrecks that were once tenement blocks or factories could be identified.—Reuters.

India plans mass campaign to wipe out illiteracy

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, March 31

India is to make a fresh attack on illiteracy, Dr Pratap Chandra Chunder, Minister of Education in the new Janata Government, has told his officials.

A team of experts, he said, had been set to work out the details of a "people's literacy drive" which he promised would be among the Government's priorities.

Dr Chunder, a professional educationalist, said he felt that the emphasis put on higher education in India was responsible for only one-third of the population being literate.

While attention to higher education was "a good thing, we cannot neglect the great masses of our people who have not got the benefit of education," he said.

Dr Chunder called for a Mahatma Gandhi-like movement

which would involve the country's two million primary school teachers and also secondary school pupils in a mass literacy drive.

He promised teachers salary inducements but also appealed to every educated Indian to take upon himself the duty of imparting fundamental education to his backward brothers and sisters.

One of the difficulties revealed by Unesco's world literacy programme since 1965 was that school teachers in developing countries tend to be neither professionally nor psychologically equipped to teach adult illiterates.

Dr Chunder said he was personally studying the Chinese method of tackling illiteracy for some of that country's problems were analogous to India's, but he would welcome "suggestions and guidance" from anyone interested.

Shanghai appeal to Mr Carter

From Richard Hughes
Hong Kong, March 31

and to support us with the same commitment you gave the Soviet human rights leader."

The writer identifies more than 20 prisons and detention centres in Shanghai and complains bitterly about the sending of young intellectuals to the countryside to work.

"Why must we go to prison," he asks. "Why must we undergo labour reform? Why must we lead such miserable existences, not even on a par with those of dogs or pigs? ... We cannot see what we have learnt. Our whole lives will be spent in faraway border regions which in effect are labour reform camps. ... The people on the mainland have lost all their human rights, shivering in fear, night and day."

It goes on: "The Chinese mainland today is a hell on earth. The thousands and

thousands of people who in their bid to survive either have to cross the border, escape from small farming villages, or try to secure freedom and the enjoyment of human rights, are all locked up by the communists in prisons or labour reform camps, with the result that their lot becomes even more painful."

"Mr Carter, we realize that in order to gain our human rights, it is necessary to exert more struggle and effort. And we must also have more spiritual and moral support. Most of all from the American people who have a 200-year history of supporting human rights."

Copies of the letter have been distributed to Western and Asian diplomatic and intelligence representatives here. They agree that it is probably genuine.

Le Monde

looks at the

UNITED KINGDOM

Fifty million Frenchmen can be wrong

Yes, hopelessly wrong about Britain. And can you blame them? Just consider the clichés they have lived with. Milord. Jeeves. Eton's playing fields. Le five o'clock. Sin in high society.

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* (Source: CESP 1975 (equivalent to the British JCNARS).

By Rex Bellamy

[illegible]

Ken Rosewall . . . kept under relentless pressure.

Almost as sad was a similar collapse by Tony Roche, beaten 7-6, 6-4 by his doubles partner, John Newcombe, who had won the week's first and last Sunday he pulled a hip muscle while practising. But he still served for the title after losing the first set, ball awfully well," said Case later.

"Case made the sharper start. But we were both off our game in some flowing passing shots and his chopping backhand and two-spin forehand had Case scuttling all over the court."

"The worst part was when I saw that back that asked of him. He survived his worst crisis by breaking down the line and he was mad as hell in trouble again. From 2-1 and 2-0 in the second set he lost only four points."

The pairings in the last eight are: Nastase vs Amritraj; Case vs Dittmer; Gernsmaier vs Fibak; Solomon vs Stockton.

This first tennis tournament at

[illegible]

Cricket

Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 31.—Pakistan and West Indies played the second Test at Port of Spain, the fourth Test widely expected to be the decider in their five-match series.

Four weeks ago, West Indies thrashed Pakistan by six wickets on the same unpredictable pitch at the picturesque Queens Park Oval to go one-up in the series. Only a victory over the next five opponents would give the Indians hopes of winning the series.

This gives little hope that Pakistan will stand up better than they did in the second Test. West Indies' formidable attack of Roberts, Croft and Garner. Between them, the three fast bowlers have taken 52 of the 600 Pakistan wickets in the three Tests so far. Despite an enormous second innings total of 340 in Guyana, the Pakistan batsmen still do not seem to have worked out how to counter the pace of the West Indians out to a careless stroke.

Pakistan's morale has been boosted by the brilliant batting of the West Indies batsmen in the first two weeks ago to save the third Test after being skittled out in their first innings for 194. But that was not the only reason for their wicket. Since then, the fragility of their batting has been confirmed by the weakest side in the Caribbean, the Guyanese, who lost on another unpredictable pitch in Dominica. Pakistan were twice dismissed for less than 170 in that match, and the only reason bowlers were able to run through the Windwards batting for even less.

Pakistan played four of their Test probabilities in the Windward Islands—Zaheer Abbas, Javed Miandad, Haroon Rashid and Sadiq Mohammad. None impressed, despite the weakness of the Islands' batting.

Pakistan none the less believe that they can win the series, but the West Indies captain, Lloyd, is not so sure. "I don't think I can believe that when you look at the batting all the way down the order we have proved the stronger side," he said after the third Test.

WEST INDIES: R. C. Fredericks, C. G. Greenidge, I. V. A. Richards, A. J. Kalicharran, I. Shillingford, C. Lloyd, D. L. Murray, M. W. Roberts, J. Garner, C. Croft, Ashwin.

PAKISTAN (from): Majid Khan, Sadiq Mohammad, Zaheer Abbas, Haroon Rashid, Mushtaq Mohammad, Asif Iqbal, Wasim Raja, Imran Khan, Sarfaraz Nawaz, Javed Miandad, Javed Iqbal, Ahsan ul-Khan, and Wasim Bari.

Boxing

Monaco, May 30.—Britain's world light-heavyweight champion, John Conteh, will defend his title against a European light-middleweight champion, Maurice Hope, in a defense of his crown against Frank Wissenbach, of Germany, in Berlin, on May 7. Hope recently boxed a draw in a title bout against the world champion, Eckhard Dugge, also in Berlin.

Rodrigue Valdes, of Colombia, would probably also be staged here, in July.

Agence France-Presse.

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Olympic Games

Abidjan, March 31.—A proposal was made today to the joint conference of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the National Olympic Committees (NOCS) here that countries entering Olympic Games and then pulling out should be penalized. According to conference sources, the proposal was referred to the

The proposal, put up by Canada, recommended that the Games without drawdown from the Olympic Games should be barred from the next Games and be required to refund certain expenses incurred by the host country. The sources said that it laid emphasis on withdrawal from the Games for political reasons.

At the end, the delegates asked for time to study the proposal, the sources said.

Mr Abraham Orodia, Nigerian president of the Supreme Council for African Sports (SCAS), spoke on the proposal and said that the African countries' boycott of the Montreal Games last year was a result of political considerations on grounds, and not on political considerations, the sources said.

the IOC executive board and the NOCS, which opened today, will review points raised at separate meetings held here earlier this week. The meeting will also consider reports from the organizing committees of the 1980 Olympic Games in Lake Placid and Moscow. —Reuters.

Show jumping

GENEVA: 1. D. Groom, Jr., 300
 1,010 pls. 2. H. Daoui, Zetta, 600
 pls. 3. H. Shork, Astoria,
 115 pls. 4. E. E. E. Smith, Valde-
 1,050 pls. 5. C. E. E. Smith, Valde-
 1,050 pls. 6. D. Broom, Bullseye, 940 pls.
 7. H. Daoui, Espoir, 600 pls. 8. E. E. E. Smith,
 1,050 pls. 9. U. N. L. Scotch, 830 pls.

Rugby League

FIRST DIVISION: Leeds 21, Work-
ington Town 14.

Motor racing

By John Blunsden

Against a backdrop of high risers, main road shops, the retirement home of the Long Beach race track, the California State Fair, the former Cusack, Queen Mary, the fourth round of the 1977 world championship race series will be run away this weekend in California as the United States Grand Prix West.

Last year Ferrari were the dominant team, and Clay Regazzoni, now driving for British Ensign, was the only driver to win. The Ford team, led through the race by practice and the race with his team partner, Niki Lauda, guarding his tail. The flexibility of the 1000 cc engine will again prove decisive when practice begins today on the two-mile circuit, and the Brabham team, too, with their

Last year's race, stage managed by the British expatriate businessman, was a financially ruinous exercise conducted against severe financial odds. It proved to be a costly exercise, but such was the popularity of the event that a grand prize running through the streets of a United States city has been secured this year to ensure the viability of a repeat race.

Although referred to by a number of names, the Long Beach Grand Prix of the New World, the Long Beach race is, in fact, unique in character and for drivers and spectators alike presents a formidable challenge. Two first gear hairpins, a preponderance of short straights and long straights and a long, looping right-hand curve where the cars will be at their most vulnerable, chosen compromises in setting up cars. It is also a circuit which is full of traps, blind corners, transmissions and drive shafts.

Lloyd's underwriters in London are sponsoring one of several privately-constituted British racing entries which are to challenge the heavily-financed European works teams in this year's (writes John Blunsden).

Jan Bracey, an insurance broker, and Tony Charnell, managing director of a Ford mail dealership in Durley, are contesting the world's sports car championship races in a Chevron B31, powered by a two-litre Hart engine. They will be joined by the important 24 hours race in June by John Hine, one of Britain's most experienced sports car drivers.

Although United Kingdom participation in the French endurance race has declined considerably since the 1950s, the dominance of the 1950s, a number of British participants, including Alain de Cadegnet and Guy Edwards (Lola) are still keen to compete in the Marseilles circuit (writes Martin) are maintaining a British presence in anticipation of the time, hopefully not too far distant, when the Le Mans race will revert to its original status as a national endurance event for what are essentially production cars.

Table tennis

By Richard Streeton
One topic alone was uppermost in the minds of the players at the world table tennis championships in Birmingham yesterday as they had a rest day before the start of today's individual events. Will China, having duly retained both the men's and women's team titles on Wednesday, now go on to win all five events? Will they even deem it appropriate to assert their undoubted superiority?

These questions to some people may need elaborating a little. Sport, like every other human activity, has seen its quota of Chinese imponderabilities. In table tennis, there have been occasions when, to use the fashionable phrase, China has put friendship between nations ahead of competitive success.

It is a delicate area in which to comment and a factor which has aroused suspicious less often at major championships than on the routine goodwill tours China

undertakes. But it has to be remembered that the ball remains a talking point among the Europeans, and at this point when they discuss prospects for the next five days.

There are 10 Europeans, and especially the men, have already shown they are so much better than anyone else at Birmingham, that it is not surprising that they are the ones which of them will actually win. On form, and according to China's own rankings, it should be Kuo Yao-Ru, but he is a bit of a weakling, though these things do not always work out as they should and he is even among the Chinese themselves.

Certainly it seems unlikely that the holder, Istvan Jonyer (Hungary), will come through again as he did in Calcutta. Stellan Bengtsson, of Sweden, is the European most likely to be among the top two non-Asian players themselves, as he is likely to progress the furthest.

It is the defending champion, Sun

women's singles, like Janovc, is not generally expected to win the title. The Chinese, and unexpectedly beaten in the last world singles final, starts as favourite. Unless one is an optimist, however, the winners are nine or 10 other Asians at least before a prudent forecaster would nominate a contender from Europe.

Today the championship programme is occupied by three exciting qualifying matches, a slight misnomer, as the winners of everybody taking part bar the world's leading 32 men and women are guaranteed a place in the next stages. So it is tomorrow before the major names return to the stage again.

Among the leading four English players are concerned, therefore, it is another 24 hours before Desmond Douglas and Dennis Mitchell, the men's singles and Jill Hammersley and Carole Knight in the women's, start their chal-

Hockey

by a Staff Reporter
U.A.U. 1 London 2
The British Universities Sports
Association hockey trophy found a
new champion place yesterday
for several years been the monopoly
of Universities Athletic Union
who were beaten at Durham in an
event which has been the main
of the side for the first time.
London's success, the outcome
of perseverance, was a surprise
to many who had looked for a
in the preliminary round but their
3-1 victory over Oxford in the
final round raised their hopes
and in the end they were by Deter-
mined after being a goal
down.
The match played in cold and
wet weather was even for most
of the first half with Green and
Dunlop holding the centre against
and determined London
match. In the second half by Deter-
mined. The score sheet remained

blank until a minute before half time when Waugh scored for UAU from a short corner. But a little earlier, UAU had lost Dunlop who was sent off for a foul. Waugh had to retreat for urgent dental treatment. Jeetha took his place but UAU's rhythm was obviously broken.

Ten minutes after the interval Harrison equalized for London and the battle was on. UAU came back with a goal but Waugh missed a post but 12 minutes before the match-winner for London who passed to Harrison and he scored. Jeetha hit the strotroke. Farr saved well from Edmondson. Towards the end UAU came close to saving the game.

UAV's second half was a complete three-match rubber. Cambridge hawing won 2-1 at the pool and 2-1 in the pool match at Durham.

[illegible]

By Joyce Whitehead

The British Universities (women), whose team was selected only last Wednesday, played their first match yesterday in Ulster and were beaten by the Ulster-23 side. This was a rather in Ulster's cap, for they were without their four international players as Ireland are playing an international match tomorrow. So, like the Universities, they had not played enough before.	RUSF 2
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Although the Universities scored four goals, three of them from the circle by June Garvin, it was Ulster who had most of

In the second half the Universities were on the attack most of the time, but were unable to finish in the circle except for the equalizing goal scored by John McEwen. The Universities' persistent raids, but that was sufficient for they scored their third and winning goal.

Scotland, the Universities' captain, and the Universities' manager, had chosen her team well. The two players chosen for the right wing for the

Universities played half a match each, but try as the teams did, they could not get the ball in the net again. Ulster, though they tended to overhit, demonstrated the value of good open game play and showed the importance of some they played the Universities they lost in Liverpool.

BRITISH UNIVERSITIES: G. Wason (N Ireland), J. O'Connell (Ireland), L. Scotland (Scotland), E. Gibson (England), R. McQuinn (Ireland), F. Fenwick (Wales), M. McGee (Ireland), P. Parkin (England), Dawson (England).

ULSTER UNDER-23: A. Whitlock, C. Cammisa, S. Young, J. McCann, S. Lewis, B. Young, N. Alexander, J. Lewis.

Our Rackets Correspondent
Marlborough, the holders, came
back from being down 3-0, and
delicately poised in the fourth and
fifth games to beat Wellingford
and reach the semi-final round
of the schools rackets champion-
ship at Queen's Club yesterday.
Marlborough and Worlidge beat Mal-
tby and Maltby by 10-15,
15-15, 15-17, 15-11, 15-10.
15-6, 15-6 and today meet
Marlborough in the other semi-final
at Marlborough play Malvern.

[illegible]

Latest European snow reports

[illegible]

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Law Report March 31 1977

House of Lords

AA denied costs in small claims

Hobbs v Marlowe
Before Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Chancellor, Viscount Dilhorne, Lord Diplock, Lord Simon of Glaisdale and Lord Salmon.

A motorist whose car was damaged in an accident and was reimbursed by his insurers for the full amount of his expenses which he had sustained, less only £10 excess and the uninsured costs of hiring a substitute car, was held to be nevertheless entitled to sue the other motorist for the full amount of his expenses. But the county court judge was right in refusing him solicitors' costs on a claim which was a misuse of the process of the court.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the defendant, Mr Roger Marlowe, and a cross-appeal by the plaintiff, Mr Percy John Hobbs, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Widgoff, Lord Justice Scarman and Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane) (The Times, October 27, 1976) who dismissed an appeal and granted an order for costs against the defendant.

Mr Loolin Price, QC, and Mr Dermot O'Brien for Mr Marlowe; Mr Roger Elphinstone, QC, and Mr Robert Nelson for Mr Hobbs.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said that he agreed with Lord Diplock and desired to add a few words on the cross-appeal.

The evident object of the rule (Order 47, rule 4) of the County Courts Rules, introduced in 1973, had been to discourage legal representation in cases where the amount of the claim did not justify the cost. Its effect was to prevent a litigant being deterred from asserting what he regarded as a just claim or defence by the fear of being mulcted in relatively heavy legal costs. It was to be a matter for concern if one of the principal provisions designed for the protection of the litigant in person could be avoided by a colourable inflation of the plaintiff's claim.

His Lordship agreed with Lord Justice Salmon, as he then was, in his dissenting judgment in *Bourne v Stanbridge* (1965) 1 W.L.R. 189, 190: "I am bound to say that it seems to me that in the circumstances of this case the principles of reason and justice clearly demand that a plaintiff who embarks on a piece of fruitless litigation of this kind should not be entitled to his costs as of right. It is suggested that the facts that the plaintiff was insured and that the defendants were insured and that there was a knock-for-knock agreement, and that the plaintiff bore the first £10 and that there was a no claims bonus and so on, are, so far as the issue of liability was concerned, I do not, however, believe that the court is obliged to exercise its discretion over costs in this manner. Not only do I think, as far as costs are concerned, that these matters are relevant; I think that they are of real and sometimes of vital importance."

Those words were equally applicable whether the result of removing the blinkers and having regard to the actual amount at stake was, as in *Bourne v Stanbridge*, to lower the scale of costs to which the plaintiff was entitled or, as in the instant case, to deprive him altogether of his solicitors' costs.

Viscount Dilhorne delivered an opinion agreeing with Lord Diplock.

LORD DIPLOCK said that it had never been seriously disputed that Mr Marlowe had been solely to blame for the accident. Both cars had been comprehensively insured with an excess of £10. Mr Hobbs with the United Standard Insurance Co Ltd and Mr Marlowe with the Guardian Royal Exchange Insurance Ltd (GRE). The cost of repairing Mr Hobbs's car had never been in dispute: it was £227.53 of which £227.53 had been paid by United Standard. Mr Hobbs had incurred expenses in hiring another car while his was being repaired amounting to £63.53. So he was £73.53 out of pocket.

United Standard and GRE were parties to a knock-for-knock agreement, the effect of which was that in circumstances such as the present each insurer bore its own loss. If Mr Marlowe were compelled by law to pay the cost of repairing Mr Hobbs's car, Mr Hobbs would be entitled under his right of subrogation to recover it from Mr Marlowe. In that sum as they were bound to do, GRE would be entitled to recover it from Mr Hobbs. The net result would be that the sum by United Standard, United Standard in their turn, £227.53 to Mr Hobbs would be paid by United Standard. Mr Hobbs would be entitled under his right of subrogation to recover it from Mr Marlowe. In that sum as they were bound to do, GRE would be entitled to recover it from Mr Hobbs. The net result would be that the sum by United Standard, United Standard in their turn, £227.53 to Mr Hobbs would be paid by United Standard.

Mr Hobbs was a member of the Automobile Association and was entitled to use their claims recovery scheme, which provided the services of solicitors to recover claims for which the member had not been indemnified by his insurers. Some 11,000 claims were dealt with each year, over half for less than £100. Of the latter nine out of 10 were settled without litigation. In those cases, it had been the general practice until 1973 for the full amount of the damage, including the sum already paid to the plaintiff by his own insurers.

The sole purpose of those tactics was to enable the AA to recover a sum for their solicitors' charges greater than that which would have been recoverable in litigation before the new rule. GRE were an exception. To bring them into line with the others, the AA solicitors adopted the practice of claiming, or threatening to claim, in county court proceedings the full amount of the damage, including the sum already paid to the plaintiff by his own insurers.

The present case was brought to test the AA solicitors' right to adopt those tactics. The amount claimed was £313.52 (damages of £240.00 and small amounts for court fees, etc.). The action was brought, as it had to be, in Mr Hobbs's name, with his nominal consent. It was defended by GRE in the name of

Mr Marlowe, whose negligence was admitted. In July, 1974, they paid £227.53 into court in satisfaction of Mr Hobbs's claim. That was all he had any personal interest in recovering; his no-claims bonus was not in jeopardy. United Standard took no part in the proceedings, and gave Mr Hobbs no instructions.

The county court judge held that he was bound by *Marley v Moore* (1936) 2 KB 359 to enter judgment for Mr Hobbs for the full amount of his expenses. But he exercised his discretion to deprive him of all costs except the court fee of £7.50 appropriate to a claim for less than £75.

As respected £227.53 which had already been paid to Mr Hobbs by United Standard, that was paid to the registrar on Mr Marlowe's behalf by GRE as his insurers. On receipt of that sum Mr Hobbs, if ever in fact received it, would have held it on behalf of United Standard under his right of subrogation, and United Standard would have been under a contractual duty under the knock-for-knock agreement to pay it back to GRE. It would thus come round full circle back into the hands of GRE.

His Lordship took it to be clear beyond all argument that an assured under a policy insuring him against loss or damage to a chattel, on being indemnified by his insurers for a loss he had sustained, did not thereby lose his right of action against the wrongdoer who had caused the loss. Under the doctrine of subrogation, the insurer would have been under a contractual duty under the knock-for-knock agreement to pay it back to GRE. It would thus come round full circle back into the hands of GRE.

The defendant had made a valuable effort to convince their Lordships that the ratio decidendi of *Marley v Moore*, in so far as it held that the existence of a knock-for-knock agreement between the parties' insurers did not deprive the plaintiff of his cause of action against the defendant for damage to his car, was wrong. Analysis of the successive steps which were necessarily involved in his contention that by the time action brought the equitable right of interest in Mr Marlowe's right of action against Mr Marlowe had vested in the defendant himself revealed the propositions involved in the latter steps as unarguable, and his Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

As to the cross-appeal, the judge had found, as had never been disputed, that "the [plaintiff's] claim was raised from £73.53 to £313.52 by the plaintiff's solicitors solely for the purpose of increasing their claim for costs: it was neither contemplated nor intended that the increase would be of any real or other benefit to Mr Hobbs."

His reasons for depriving the plaintiff of his costs were: "To commence proceedings or to institute a claim for the purpose of obtaining costs or of increasing the costs that a defendant may have to pay is an abuse of the process of the court amounting in this context to misconduct sufficient to justify the court in depriving the plaintiff of some or all of the costs to which he might otherwise have been entitled. A fortiori, in my view, would be so if, as in the present instance, the plaintiff's seeking costs is a direct consequence of the proceedings or the inflation of the claim in question."

The Court of Appeal had emphasised that the AA solicitor had not been guilty of any impropriety in bringing the present test action. This Lordship would say that the AA solicitor would have been guilty of an abuse of the process of the court, but one which fully justified the judge depriving the plaintiff of his costs other than those which would have been recoverable in litigation before the new rule. The AA said that it was a hardship that a motorist like Mr Hobbs should be deprived of his right to recover his uninsured damages amounting to something less than £100 should have to meet his solicitors' reasonable charges for recovering that sum by settlement or litigation out of his own pocket or AA subscription instead of being paid by his own insurers. If that was a hardship it was one which, since the introduction of the small claims scheme, had been borne by every member of the public who sought to recover in that court a claim for less than £100. Of the latter nine out of 10 were settled without litigation. In those cases, it had been the general practice until 1973 for the full amount of the damage, including the sum already paid to the plaintiff by his own insurers.

Mr Hobbs was a member of the Automobile Association and was entitled to use their claims recovery scheme, which provided the services of solicitors to recover claims for which the member had not been indemnified by his insurers. Some 11,000 claims were dealt with each year, over half for less than £100. Of the latter nine out of 10 were settled without litigation. In those cases, it had been the general practice until 1973 for the full amount of the damage, including the sum already paid to the plaintiff by his own insurers.

The present case was brought to test the AA solicitors' right to adopt those tactics. The amount claimed was £313.52 (damages of £240.00 and small amounts for court fees, etc.). The action was brought, as it had to be, in Mr Hobbs's name, with his nominal consent. It was defended by GRE in the name of

Mr Marlowe, whose negligence was admitted. In July, 1974, they paid £227.53 into court in satisfaction of Mr Hobbs's claim. That was all he had any personal interest in recovering; his no-claims bonus was not in jeopardy. United Standard took no part in the proceedings, and gave Mr Hobbs no instructions.

The county court judge held that he was bound by *Marley v Moore* (1936) 2 KB 359 to enter judgment for Mr Hobbs for the full amount of his expenses. But he exercised his discretion to deprive him of all costs except the court fee of £7.50 appropriate to a claim for less than £75.

As respected £227.53 which had already been paid to Mr Hobbs by United Standard, that was paid to the registrar on Mr Marlowe's behalf by GRE as his insurers. On receipt of that sum Mr Hobbs, if ever in fact received it, would have held it on behalf of United Standard under his right of subrogation, and United Standard would have been under a contractual duty under the knock-for-knock agreement to pay it back to GRE. It would thus come round full circle back into the hands of GRE.

His Lordship took it to be clear beyond all argument that an assured under a policy insuring him against loss or damage to a chattel, on being indemnified by his insurers for a loss he had sustained, did not thereby lose his right of action against the wrongdoer who had caused the loss. Under the doctrine of subrogation, the insurer would have been under a contractual duty under the knock-for-knock agreement to pay it back to GRE. It would thus come round full circle back into the hands of GRE.

Appointments Vacant

also on pages 13 and 26

Staff Information Executive

Thames Television seeks applications for the post of Staff Information Executive from people with experience in, and sympathy for, constructive two-way communication between staff and management. Based at Euston Studios, the position carries responsibility for organising and developing the internal information services, which cover all company issues and matters of interest to staff. Applicants must be able to speak and write clear, informal English and be inventive communicators. Salary to be negotiated. All fringe benefits in line with top class company. Phone or write to Joanna Walker on 01-387 9494, 306-3376 Euston Road, London NW1 3BB.

THAMES

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Candidates should have a good standard of education, preferably to graduate level, and previous relevant executive experience. Essential qualities are numeracy, initiative, fluency with the written word, and meticulous attention to detail.

Salary not less than £4,250.

Applications in writing, giving full details of age, qualifications and experience, together with names of two referees, should be submitted by 18th April to:

Establishment Officer,
Zoological Society of London,
Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the post of:

INSECT ECOLOGIST

TICK ECOLOGIST

Applicants for these posts must have a PhD in Entomology or a related subject and a minimum of five years' experience in the field of insect ecology. The successful candidate will be required to carry out intensive field studies and to teach and supervise students in the laboratory and in the field. The post is full-time and involves travel to various parts of the world. Salary will be in the region of £5,500 per year (according to age, experience and circumstances).

This appointment falls vacant in early September, 1977. Please write for job description and application forms to:

THE HEAD OF HOME
LE COURT
Hampshire's Cheshire Home for the Physically Disabled

Applications are invited from persons whose previous experience suggests that they have marked characteristics of creative ability, human understanding and considerable administrative ability.

Candidates should be between 25 and 35 years. Previous experience in social service type of work, consisting of the management of a team of staff, is essential. The successful candidate will be required to carry out intensive field studies and to teach and supervise students in the laboratory and in the field. The post is full-time and involves travel to various parts of the world. Salary will be in the region of £5,500 per year (according to age, experience and circumstances).

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Handwritten applications, with evidence of professional competence, should be sent to: Michael Randolph, Editor, Reader's Digest, 25 Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AB.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Botswana and Swaziland

(UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SWAZILAND)

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The Professor will also be Head of Department. He will be expected to supervise the teaching of the Department and to be responsible for the development of the Department. He should have a PhD in Biology and a minimum of five years' experience in the field of biology. He should be able to speak and write clear, informal English and be inventive communicators. Salary to be negotiated. All fringe benefits in line with top class company. Phone or write to Joanna Walker on 01-387 9494, 306-3376 Euston Road, London NW1 3BB.

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A chilling fear of collapse in Eastern Europe as Moscow's power dwindles

Eastern Europe seems to be heading into troubled times again after several years of relative peace and quiet. Opposition is emerging in new and more open forms and several governments show signs of being lumpy. How deep are the stresses, and how seriously should we take warnings that western support for human rights movements could provoke serious instability?

All the countries in the area are having to cope in varying degrees with disappointed hopes in both economics and politics. After the crushing of the Czechoslovak reforms of 1968 and the Polish strikes of 1970, most governments followed the Soviet lead in giving priority to consumer goods, housing, real wages, and trade openings to the West. They hoped that people would gradually lose interest in political change and concentrate on the material betterment of their lives.

For a while things went fairly well. New five-year plans started in 1971. Money flowed into pockets, goods flowed (more slowly) into shops, and the high tide of détente seemed to promise political relaxation as well. Even the oil crisis brought short-term benefits to eastern Europe, for Soviet oil remained cheap, and consumer prices could be held stable while the West floundered into recession, thereby giving the propagandists a field day which they were not slow to exploit.

But the advantage was short-lived. From January, 1975, Russians began to raise the price of oil and raw materials on a rolling five-year average of world prices, so that even if eastern Europe were to continue buying the same amount of oil its bill would rise by about 85 per cent by 1978. Czechoslovakia, which had paid roughly the double equivalent of £115m for 10m tonnes of Soviet oil in 1971, found herself paying roughly the equivalent of £418m for 10m tonnes in 1975, and of course still more in 1976.

East Germany and Hungary have also been hard hit. Although the Russians now pay more for their industrial imports from eastern Europe, it is not enough to compensate. There has been a lot of back-stage argument about the price system, which could leave eastern Europe paying above the world level if commodity

prices drop. In addition, eastern Europe has had to invest heavily in Soviet raw material exploitation and will now not quite the benefits it expected.

To make matters worse for eastern Europe, western markets shrank while the price of western imports rose sharply, and since many of these are capital goods, the need for them projects, and needed for the rationalization which alone can make up for higher material costs, they cannot be quickly cut off. The result has been a painful shift in the terms of trade to the disadvantage of eastern Europe, which is called upon simultaneously to supply more to the Soviet Union to pay for raw materials, more to the west to pay for capital goods, and more to its own consumers to meet managerial rationing, with pricing systems deeply resistant to reform, and with the misfortune of some bad harvests.

One result was to run several Comecon countries deeply into debt with the West. Nobody has the true figures but total Comecon indebtedness to the West has probably risen from the equivalent of about £18,000m at the end of 1975 to £22,000m at the end of 1976, with about a third accounted for by the Soviet Union, a third by Poland and a third by the rest. A great deal of effort must now be devoted to servicing and repaying these debts.

The stresses show in the more modest targets of the new five-year plans which started in 1976. On an average drawn from figures weighed according to the relative size of the economies, national income is planned to grow by 30 per cent over five years, compared with 36 per cent achieved in the previous five-year plan. Targets for the growth of real wages have dropped to 18 per cent, compared with 29 per cent in 1971-75, with Hungary aiming for only 14.16 per cent, Czechoslovakia 13.15, and Poland 16.18 (compared with 40 per cent in 1971-75). Even these targets may well not be reached, especially taking into account inflation on the private markets for goods and services, to which people are driven by shortages. Results for 1976 are already below target in some countries, and the Hungarian

regime has admitted that the real income of some families decreased last year.

These problems do not create great hardship, nor difficulties necessarily any greater than those in the West, but they mingle with frustrated political expectations. Détente aroused a mixture of hopes among governments and peoples. Both wanted curbs on the arms race and openings to the West, but greater international legitimacy, and carefully controlled exchanges, the people hoped for more individual freedoms. The people's hopes were raised by the Helsinki conference of 1975 and are now being expressed more vigorously in order to influence this year's conference in Belgrade, which will review the results of Helsinki. Further stimulation has come from President Carter's open espousal of human rights. Although nobody expects him to come riding into Eastern Europe on a white horse, still less on a tank, the moral support and publicity are important.

The basic problem touched by this issue is that two familiar props of the regimes are weakening—external threat and revolutionary necessity. The external threat was once embodied by West Germany or NATO, and during the cold war it carried some conviction as a reason for maintaining armed vigils and internal controls. Détente, no matter how interpreted, is bound to make it less convincing. The new ideological penetration, this is seen by many as more of an attraction than a threat, and does nothing to mobilize national sentiment.

The imperatives of revolutionary transition also provided useful excuses for almost everything from show trials to economic shortages and censorship, but new generations are growing up less impressed and less frightened. They want now what the system used to promise for the golden future. Governments must therefore win their way by results, not by doctrines or promises.

On top of all this comes the new face of west European communism. Support for its specific doctrines is confined to relatively few intellectuals in Prague, East Berlin, Moscow

and elsewhere, but the effect of the challenge goes deeper. When west European communists can come to East Berlin, as they did last June, and say openly that the Soviet Union is no longer any sort of model for them, and when they then have their speeches published in full in the East German party paper, a tabloid, the hammer blows. The authority of Moscow can never look the same again in eastern Europe, where there are certainly people inside the ruling apparatus who pin quick hopes on the Italian example and know they have no hope of legitimacy until they bring the systems closer to the traditions of central and western Europe.

Eastern Europe is thus entering a phase of new stresses between government and people and—especially in economic relations—between governments and the Soviet Union. The task of coping with them is made more difficult by the widening gap between leaders and led, and by uncertainty about the future leadership of the Soviet Union. Everyone knows, of course, that in the last resort Soviet tanks will always come to the rescue of the systems in eastern Europe. But everyone also knows that another armed intervention would be enormously costly and that the Russians would be very anxious to avoid it, particularly in Poland, where the Polish army might fight.

Hence there is room for careful testing of the limits of the possible. This might slide out of control if there were simultaneous instability in the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and some other key players, but on the whole the fear of a breakdown in the precarious, if unsatisfactory, order in Europe is still sufficiently chilling to exert powerful restraints on all concerned. It therefore seems unlikely that there is much immediate danger of serious instability, even if the West continues to champion human rights in a realistic manner. On the other hand, the stresses will not go away, some may get worse, new ways of dealing with them will be found, and there will be sharper debates between those who want to suppress them and those who want to accommodate them.

Richard Davy



Denis Hamilton with his wife Lady Hamilton and the editorial staff of the People's Daily in Peking.

China rolling out the red carpet for Mrs Thatcher

One of the really great men in London and Far East commerce, who was born in China, told me that he had prepared a book entitled "All I Knew About China". He promised me a copy. It had 200 blank pages.

What, then, can one say of this enigmatic land after a second visit to Peking in five years? The language problems are too great to talk freely to anyone and unless one sees the top leadership, every Chinese sticks closely to the Party line, communicated by a remarkable internal communications system within hours to every corner in the country. Five ambassadors will offer five views of whether the present leadership will last.

Will Hua Kuo-feng, elected Chairman of the Central Committee, be confirmed as Chairman Mao's successor? He is believed to be a strong candidate, or Chairman of the Central Committee, only some time as Chairman Hua. His photograph is now appearing on public buildings alongside Mao's. He has been at the top since Chou En-lai became ill in 1974 and Chairman Mao died last autumn. Mao, strangely, had failed to fill many of the top places long before he died, an explanation being that he would have had to give in to the Gang of Four faction and appoint their nominees.

How does one view Chairman Hua? At 56, he is one of the youngest members of the Central Committee. Obviously, his record shows him to be a loyal Party man—perhaps more of a pragmatist than Chairman Mao.

Mao's extremism for the past 15 years is said to have been privately criticized by his colleagues, who thought him somewhat soft on the Gang of Four (defined for me as a boy's Party or Chinese official, as the "Chinese Mafia"). Because they know that Mao's

policies in his last decade leave him open to criticism, the Government has recently published Mao's 10 years which he made in a speech of September, 1956, as proof that he had laid down the right policy for modernization and inferring that if there had been lack of speed in development, it was the fault of those who had to execute the policies.

Hua has never left China. I was told by one very senior ambassador that Hua was an expert on internal security and that some in the higher leadership were saying that he was always asking what he should do outside his own specialty. This is inevitable while he plays himself in. Another ambassador thought he would grow in stature and already the people had faith in him. They were genuinely puzzled about Lin Biao's disgrace (he was next to Mao in 1969), but they were full of "jubilation" (a word used by all) that the Gang of Four had been stopped from causing a deep split in the Party which was becoming very apparent. Hua's rise, undoubtedly, reached a higher stage than at present. The Chinese were a little frightened of Mao and where he was taking them (the Cultural Revolution was his). The decision to give Chou's widow a senior post was very popular with the masses.

One cannot but admire China's achievements so far, whatever the cost to individual things as we know them.

foreign equipment; a quick way would be the export of oil.

Teng Hsiao-ping is needed back to put some force into the economy, which flagged last year, but a decision is obviously being held back as he might be too dynamic to work with Chairman Hua Kuo-feng.

One man who carries a heavy load today is Li Hsien-nien. He is in charge of the financial area of government. He is extremely fluent—his handling of words could make a piece of string sound interesting. Some well-known newspapers named him as Chou's successor after Teng's downfall, but this was premature.

The enormous popularity of Chou En-lai was shown by the queues which formed after the issue of four postage stamps in his memory. Displays of photographs of his life are drawing crowds everywhere. History will show him to have contributed as much as Mao in organizing communist China. If Mao had died first and Chou succeeded, modernization would have undoubtedly reached a higher stage than at present. The Chinese were a little frightened of Mao and where he was taking them (the Cultural Revolution was his). The decision to give Chou's widow a senior post was very popular with the masses.

One cannot but admire China's achievements so far, whatever the cost to individual things as we know them.

Everywhere is clean. Everyone looks fit and disciplined, no long period of growth free from internal and external strife should produce fantastic results. But how can these 800 million people, mostly peasants, handle rapid modernization? No one seems to have any doubt that the Chinese solution has worked so far, and that the West, by contrast, has lost its nerve. However, one's liberalism must not be over-zealous, and the entire subject of the individual and the state on a scale never attempted before would be an unhappy state of affairs if it were permanent.

British trade may have an opportunity when the new leadership reviews the modernization programmes under the new five-year plan. The trouble with the really big construction contracts is our inability to give guaranteed fixed prices. The United States is unlikely to be a major order, but there is a better understanding on Taiwan, but realistically, China is not pressing this.

My interview with Li Hsien-nien was surprising in that he chose to be so outspoken about Russia's involvement in Africa. Clearly, it has China worried long term, and the Chinese are uncertain about the line to take when they so obviously trace the racial discrimination in South Africa. Indeed, the Vice-Foreign Secretary, a newly-elected committee, said he would prefer arms to be withheld from South Africa, much as they wished to keep it out of Russia's orbit, rather than accepting racial discrimination. Li Thatcher next week. She is really going to get the red carpet treatment because the Chinese identify her as being "hard" on Russia, whereas the Labour Party is seen to be "soft".

Denis Hamilton

Beating the extreme left at its own game

Bernard Levin

Never practise what you preach. This gloomy conclusion, to which I have been driven by circumstances which were none of my choosing, forms the substance of what I have to say today, and I think it unlikely that it will be the last time I turn to the subject. Though the fact that it is certainly the first is itself part of the story.

As regular readers will know, I have long made it my practice to comment on the affairs of various trade unions, and to comment not only in general by discussing principles or policies, but in detail, especially on the subject of the election of officers. My theme—in the case, for instance, of the AUEW—has always been the same: that the only reason for the success of British, Trotskyite and other varieties of communist, together with their front-men and fellow-travellers, has been the apathy and indifference of the majority of members who, like the majority of the country in general, reject all forms of totalitarianism, whether under the banner of the Communist Party of Great Britain or the Socialist Workers' Party (or even the International Socialists), or for that matter the National Front.

In this connexion, I have not been content simply to urge branch meetings and to participate in union elections; I have published the names of moderate candidates and their extremist opponents.

Now I have been a member of the National Union of Journalists for well over 20 years; until the last few years, however, I had been a largely inactive member, rarely going to meetings, and voting only in postal elections for national officers. I finally decided to play a more active part after the scandal surrounding the NUJ's decision not to be registered under the Industrial Relations Act 1971. The principle of deregistration was not what roused me, though as a matter of fact I was in favour of the deregistration, but the scandal lay in the fact that although the union, in a national postal ballot, voted for registration by a majority of almost two to one, the annual conference of the organization (which had the constitutional power, and, of course, duty, to ratify so clear an expression of the members' will) voted to deregister, and when a special further conference was called, at the instigation of members

outraged by this flouting of the majority's clear instructions, it upheld the decision.

Soon after that I decided to start attending the monthly meetings of the section to which I belong—the London Freelance Branch. I was appalled by what I saw there: a tiny group of left-wing extremists, who were clearly carrying out nothing for personal influence or prestige; they are patient; they are conspicuously loyal to their cause and to each other. And they cause trouble, when they do, because those who reject it, who are the great majority, feel to match those qualities with their own.

So, with the one—other member whom I recognized at a meeting, I decided to do something about it. We were grossly handicapped at the outset; we knew none of the regular attendees, and were, it seemed, debarred from inspecting the membership roll to seek familiar names. We might recruit allies. We were reduced to observing, at meetings, those who voted regularly on the same side as ourselves, taking them aside and inviting them to join our endeavour. By this means we recruited a nucleus of some 10 members,

extremists have qualities which, directed to non-totalitarian ends, would be admirable. They are assiduous; they clearly care nothing for personal influence or prestige; they are patient; they are conspicuously loyal to their cause and to each other. And they cause trouble, when they do, because those who reject it, who are the great majority, feel to match those qualities with their own.

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and held the first of a series of meetings to discuss and carry through a strategy.

At this point, you may be wondering why I did not run the campaign in this column. Because, difficult though it may be to believe, a branch of the National Union of Journalists, because our strategy was, ultimately, successful. At the January branch meeting, the largest the branch had ever held (200 members were there), which took place some 18 months after we launched our campaign, moderate members put forward or supported by our activist group (they range from passionate but impeccably democratic socialists to moderate Conservatives) swept the board for the branch elections, capturing every seat. In February, the branch

majority continued its advance, winning hands down the election for the branch's delegation to the union's conference later this month; and at the March meeting, amid uproar, the new standing orders, which may enable the branch to waste less time on irrelevancies, were adopted.

This has all been done by an immense amount of hard work on the part of our inner group. We have gone out into the highways and byways to recruit new allies; every time we have found one, we have got him or her to supply us with further names of members known to be against the extremists; every name has gone towards the compilation of the mailing list which has enabled us (I need not say an irregular and unofficial "bulletin") to urge members to come to meetings, and telling them who the moderate candidates for elections are. (The left, of course, has done all this for years, and one of the few amusing aspects of the campaign has been the extraordinary show of indignation they have put on at the sight of a leaf being taken from their own book.)

It has not only been hard work; it has also, though so far very successful, been in some ways dispiriting. For many of

the moderates seem quite unable to get the habit of coming to meetings regularly. There are only 11 such meetings a year, but for every crucial one I not only have to send out exhortations by post (two or even three bulletins have been necessary for a single meeting), our inner group has also had to spend a vast amount of time telephoning supporters to urge them to be there and to stay to the end. And the feebleness of some of the excuses is the most dispiriting thing of all.

And yet, after all, what the argument is about is democracy. The NUJ, where democracy is concerned, is not entirely unimportant; certainly the left extremists (they have a national body within the union, called the "Journalists' Charter") know that, and have as their goal the control of the union and its use as an instrument for their own political ends. (That, incidentally, is one of our handicaps; having no party line to unite us, and having among our chief aims the making of the union not only more responsive to the wishes of most of its members but less disposed to spend its time on extraneous issues.)

Well, let us see whether the change in the standing orders, which has enabled me to write

this column, will do democracy any good. The next meeting of the London Freelance Branch of the National Union of Journalists will take place next Monday, April 4, at the St Bride's Institute, St Bride's Lane (hard by Ludgate Circus), and start at 6 p.m. Under our new rules, it cannot last beyond 9.30. Among other matters to be discussed are the branch delegation's mandate for the various resolutions at the annual conference, and a number of votes of no confidence in the newly-elected committee and the new standing orders. I urge all moderate members to be there in good time; to bring others, or urge them to come, too; to stay to the end; and to support the committee and moderate policies.

It remains only for me to add one irony: though I have been, as members of any persuasion would agree, assiduous in my own attendance, inescapable work obligations make it impossible for me, for once, to attend on Monday. If any are disposed to use that as their excuse for not coming themselves, so be it. At any rate, it will be a change from the one about the baby-sitter turning up late.

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You'll be a Fool if you don't.

Test drive the Alfasud from Alfa Romeo

I had never been to a fashion show and, since there is no much time left, I accepted the invitation to a London gambling club yesterday to see what Yuki had to offer. Yuki is a Japanese designer, based in London, with some 20 years of experience in haute couture. This was to be a big occasion; his first range of ready-to-wear clothes.

On arrival I was directed upstairs, where the fashion writers were waiting breakfast. They were an odd-looking bunch of women, many of them very tall, mostly over-dressed and too heavily made-up for the time of day.

Many wore tan boots reaching to just below the knee, some beneath jodhpur-style leggings, others with mid-length skirts. They told each other how good they were looking, and inquired whether they had enjoyed Paris.

Downstairs, the seats were arranged round an oblong space where the models were to parade. Yuki appeared, wearing a black velvet jerkin with no fastening at the front. It reminded me of the tunic I used to wear in the Royal Navy, and I expect he had almost as much trouble getting it on.

In his brief and soft-spoken introduction, he announced that was going to dispense with the usual background music, so that we could concentrate on the clothes. This was the first disappointment I had been looking forward to the tinkling renderings of A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody, which I had understood accompanied such affairs.

It was a winter collection, and Yuki is expecting some extreme weather, for the models were all well wrapped up. Many

The Times Diary

But are women ready to wear it?

of the dresses had high collars reaching above the chin, worn with black-lace-like woolen hats which came down below the ears. The models' faces peered out from between, as though through the visor of an armoured helmet. Many of the tops stretched down to the middle of the wearers' thighs, keeping their bottoms well wrapped—good for smart week-end parties in country houses with no central heating.

The accessories were intriguing. Many of the dresses were worn with circular hats shaped like ring doughnuts, the crown of the head poking through the middle. One model wore what I can only describe as a giant false eyelash which covered the whole width of her forehead, without a break.

The clothes seemed attractive, heavily angular in shape and with a look which I imagine is what they mean by ethnic. Yuki is fond of tartan, which represents a sort of ethnicity in itself.

I could not, though, imagine anyone I know wearing them, except models or fashion writers. They may be ready to wear them; but anyone ready to wear them? What, then, was I to make of his haute couture collection which followed?

For that he employed a new set of models, many of them foreign—perhaps calculating

that only foreigners could afford the prices. And the pervasive ring doughnut hat had been replaced by something which looked like a giant ampersand.

The show had been going for more than an hour by now, and the audience were becoming restless. They began to behave like schoolgirls being filmed for a television documentary: a few sucked boiled sweets, and I saw one handing round a note to her near neighbour, who giggled.

A few of us sneaked away before the end, and as I did so I asked the fashion editor of the Evening Standard whether it had been an impressive show. She said yes, it had. But then I put it to her that nobody in my life ever wore clothes like that.

She had a ready explanation. "Can you imagine," she asked, "anyone dressed like that going to a man in a Marks and Spencer velvet jacket?" Ouch.

the tiny principality of Luxembourg.

There were no excuses for the feeble British. True, they had dozens of near misses. True, the referee gave some amazing decisions—like his refusal to award a penalty when an Englishman was assassinated in the goal area. But getting the ball in the back of the net is what it is all about, and that we were dismissively lacking.

The gallant little Luxembourg-bourgeois—who have not won a game since they beat Prussia in 1873—were jubilant. "I am jubilant," declared Natzo Gud, their diminutive manager. "Especially since I had two men on my side who had never played football before."

There was jubilation too from Italy, now confident of keeping England out of the World Cup final in Argentina. Baccuzzi Net, their shrewd soccer boss, shipped out of Wembley last night wearing an enigmatic smile. "I would say it is back to the drawing board for England now," he said.

He is right. No Briton can do anything but hang his head in shame. Result: England 5, Luxembourg 0.

An outraged member of the Upper House sends me this extract from the House's minutes of proceedings as an example of the terrible indignities their Lordships inflict on successful petitioners: "Report made by the Lord Chancellor that Gerald Duke of Leinster has established his claim to the Dukedom of Leinster; and ordered to lie on the table."

What about some shadow ministers from the extreme left?



Oh, my

Jeremy Robson of Robson Books thinks he is on to a winner with his new series of books about people's adventures at their places of further education. He felt confident enough of their appeal to give a reasonably lavish party at a West End club on Wednesday night to launch My Oxford and My Cambridge.

He told me that these would be followed by My LSE, My Medical School, My Drama School and perhaps, tapping the rich American market, My Har-

vard, My Yale and My Vassar. The series was the idea of Dannie Abse, poet and entrepreneur who edits it. Several of the contributors to the first two books were at the party, though Oxford was better represented than Cambridge. To identify themselves they wore lapel badges of light or dark blue, but this was little help to me, because I can never remember which colour is for which.

I noticed that many of the faces were the same as those I had seen at the notorious lunch I wrote about last week, at which £70 gold-plated pens were distributed to the guests. Whatever else an education at those famous seats of learning qualifies people for, it does seem to put them in the way of receiving pricey trinkets. A woman who had read the book told me that the contributions from elderly past scholars tended to drop more names than those from people who came down more recently. The more names that are mentioned in a book of this sort, the larger its guaranteed sale. "But there is no index," the cunning Robson told me. "So people who want to know if they are mentioned will have to read through the whole thing."

Lord Bath, bidding fearless journalists to a conference at Longleaz next week, says, in his invitation: "We hope to see you at the Lion reserve, and afterwards at Longleaz House for a drink and a bite."

PHS

Holidays in Greece

a Special
Report

Aiming to set an
example

Sunny release from prison of routine

by Arthur Foss

Recently, after yet another holiday, I was suddenly chilled by the thought of being too old to travel to Greece. What, I wondered, would it be like to hear of friends departing for Athens, Crete or Samos and to know that never again would I enjoy that first glimpse from the air of Corfu, the soft blue Ionian, faintly enshrouded in summer haze, or before landing at Salonica, see Mount Olympus to the south or three-pronged Khalkidiki, pointing like a trident south-eastwards across the cobalt Aegean towards the distant Dodecanese?

I shall, of course, have my memories, first of the wide shining valley of Lakkaouli in Epirus, rimmed on the west by the rugged mountains of Souli. Two streams of shallow, translucent water unite halfway down the valley to form the Acheron, river of the dead. Death, however, was not here but beyond Lakkaouli's eastern bastions where German forces in September 1944 were massing for their retreat back to Fortress Europa.

We passed at that time through a wretched hamlet whose few inhabitants were emaciated, oppressed perhaps by malaria which was but no longer endemic in that remote region. Tradition impelled them to offer us hospitality for we were strangers and guests—the same Greek word covers both meanings. Coffee made from acorns duly arrived and was presented with the dignity of princes dealing with their equals.

A few weeks later, after the enemy had forced their way northwards through the punishing attacks of the EDES guerrillas, we shared a bottle of tsipouro, the home brewed spirit of Roumeli, with a cheerful elderly couple who insisted that the guerrillas should garrison the north wind, sent Baltic

not fade and the irrepressible ghosts of my Greek friends will keep me company in the twilight hours.

Then from the mid-1950s there were holidays by the Aegean and Ionian, always starting with that wonderful feeling, when first stepping into the dry heat of the summer sun, of release, however brief, from the prison of routine. Behind the sandy beach rose olive groves, hills or mountains with the haunting shapes of islands beckoning from the sea's dark blue horizon.

However, what I shall remember in my dotage may then no longer exist. Many little fishing villages may have grown into large resorts, the olive trees cut down to make way for hotels and villas as elsewhere in the Mediterranean. I shall try to stifle regrets on that score, even when the new architecture is quite out of scale with the landscape. The Greeks have been invaded, fought and suffered more than most European nations and have few natural resources.

It would also be childish to deplore the opening up of the multitudes of one's favourite haunts. Such secrets are always eventually revealed. "A place, like a person," C. E. Montague wrote on this theme, "must take the chances of life as they come. If it is great it must face the normal troubles of greatness."

In any case, the Greek coastline is a long one. There will always be havens for those in search of solitude and simplicity—so at least I fervently hope—places too small and isolated to justify the building of airports which let in the flood.

Today Greece is immensely popular—but that is nothing new. From time immemorial she has proved an irresistible attraction. Fresh peoples have been continually lured towards this sun-soaked mountainous land. Even the Hyperboreans who lived, according to Herodotus, beyond the north wind, sent Baltic

amber as offerings to Delos, long before the Athenians gained control of the Sanctuary in the twilight hours.

In addition to the Bronze Age Achaeans and their Doric successors, where later came, among others, Romans, Goths, Slavs, land-hungry Crusaders and Venetians, followed by Catalans, Albanians and the Turks, who were expelled from northern Greece only in 1912-13. Those successive invaders destroyed, restored or built anew; the landscape is littered with evidence of their passing which, for me, is part of the country's fascination. Not even Italy can show so many diverse cultures.

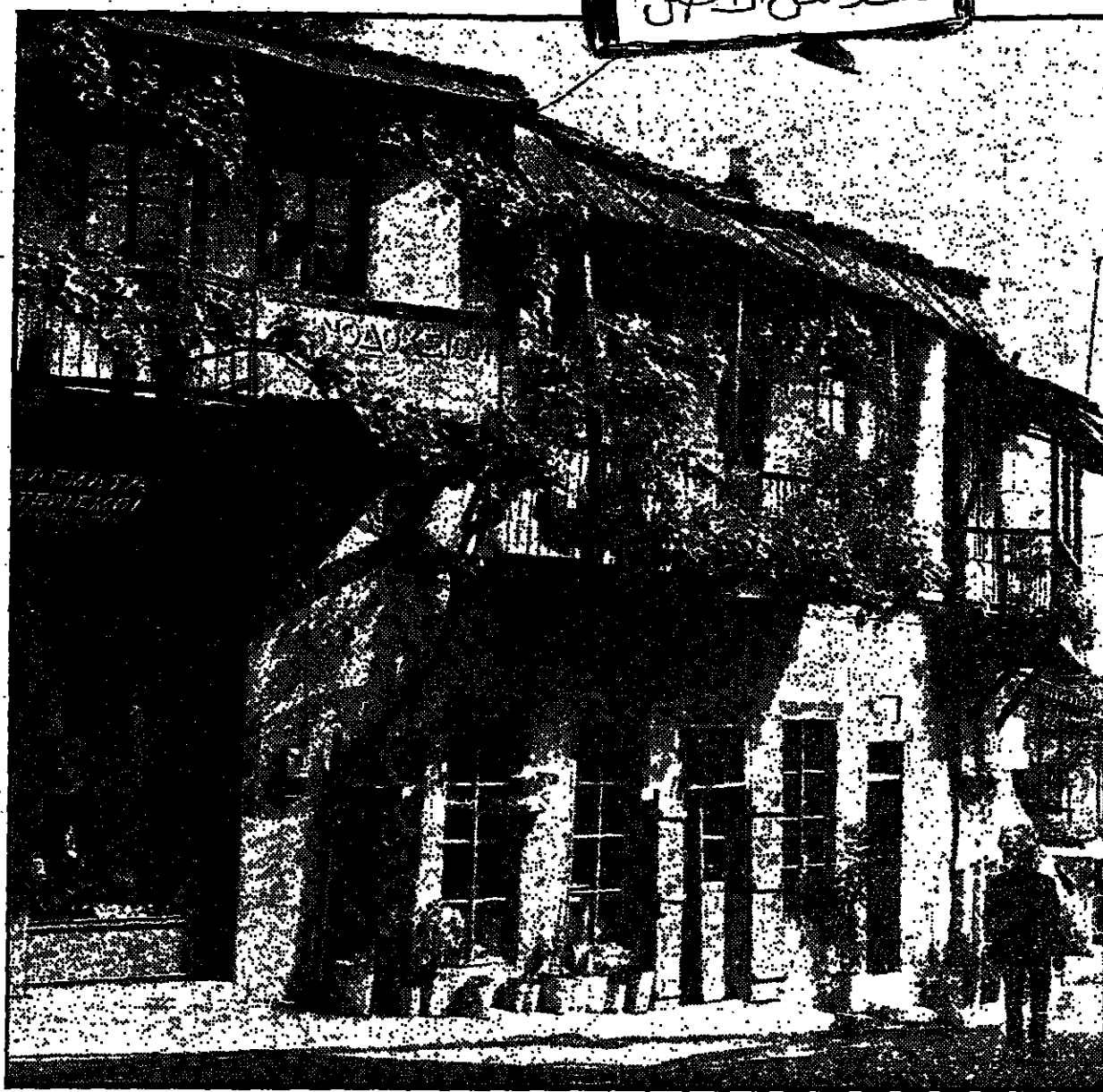
Since the middle 1950s, the tourist invasion has been gathering pace, lured to Greece by its renown and its climate. As more roads are opened to cope with this new traffic, more coaches rumble along them to the better known sites of antiquity. Traditional architecture is being destroyed, as elsewhere, to make way for modern developments.

This much-needed wealth has made television possible, with sometimes considerable effect upon local attitudes; the rural population has discarded its traditional folk costumes, now thought of as deplorably old-fashioned, much to the pleasure and profit of the antique dealers.

The same wealth has also meant larger allocations of funds to archaeology and much of great value has been revealed as a result. Fewer Greeks, moreover, must now seek work abroad, the balance sheet must be fairly drawn up.

So I started wondering where I should go in Greece if I allowed one final journey and decided on the area I know best—the Ionian Islands, Epirus and Macedonia. In the Ionian not only luxurious Corfu but Zakynthos, Cephalonia and Ithaca also call.

In Epirus and western Macedonia are Tempyson's oldest of all Greek oracles. There are many fine Byzantine churches, especially in



Balconies form a trellis for vines at Arnaia on the Khalkidiki peninsula.

summer glass" where in Kastoria, and in Salonica, 1848-49 Edward Lear, to the Macedonian capital, are several dating from the fifth century. Some remarkable Byzantine monasteries, the interiors of the chapels painted from ceiling to floor with religious scenes, stand on the island of Ioannina's lake, on lofty Meteora in Thessaly and above all on Mount Athos, where a medieval faith still lingers. Alexander the Great, and in surroundings of outstanding beauty; here would be a fitting destination for a final film.

But not yet! Many years, I hope, remain to explore or revisit such places as Zagori, between Ioannina and the Pindus mountains, where in stone villages, surrounded by the steep grazing slopes of Vlach and Sarakatsani shepherds, live the descendants of Greeks who were never conquered by the Turks, or the coastline of Khalkidiki—one could go on almost indefinitely.

Throughout Greece, however, the scenery is never complete without the salty presence of the inhabitants; extrovert, humorous, gen-

ous, inquisitive, outspoken on occasion, nearly always friendly, they bring the landscape to life. Together they make an unbeatable team. I only hope that they do not find the present pace of development too much for them.

The author has written a book on The Ionian Islands (Faber, £2.75) and is engaged in writing one on the Epirus, to be published next year. In May, 1978, he will conduct a tour round Greece for Serenissima Travel.

by Mario Modiano

Is Greek tourism nearing saturation point? After all, how many foreign holiday-makers can this country of nine million people accommodate, feed, and entertain without harming the very amenities which attract them?

These misgivings were born in the wake of a particularly successful tourist year in 1976 when the number of foreign visitors soared by one third to a record of 4,243,563. Mr George Rallis who, as Minister in charge of the Prime Minister's Office, is responsible for laying down the Government's policy on tourism, says: "I believe that by 1982 we shall have 6,500,000 tourists each spending 12 days in Greece."

Some people thought that this was the maximum Greece could ever take. "Nonsense," Mr Rallis said. "What we must do is to increase the inflow gradually without creating problems for the country or for the tourist."

The minister was opposed to tourism on a gigantic scale because of the risks involved: "If in one year you get 20 million tourists, and in the next this drops to 10 million, your private tourist industry will be exterminated," he said.

Many Greeks believe that tourism is already affecting the environment through large-scale development, especially in the most beautiful areas of the country, and that it threatens to increase pollution, alter the social structure of Greek society, and corrupt the nation's cultural values.

The Greek Government is certainly aware of the hazards involved and is already making plans to neutralize to £9,500 for a bed in an the adverse side-effects of the tourist boom.

One way of diluting these disadvantages is to discourage the construction of massive tourist conglomerates, but build instead small family hotels of 100 or 150 rooms, which tend to merge with the environment, do not create sewage disposal problems, and are of a manageable size.

Professor George Daskalakis, chairman of the board of the National Tourist Organisation, believes that all developing countries face the great dilemma of economic development

versus conservation of the environment. He said: "What we are looking for is the golden mean."

Tourism itself could not exist without conservation, he said. "We want to make Greece a model country for tourist development—a country where development keeps pace with the protection and even the improvement of the environment," he added.

One of the projects inspired by this philosophy goes into full swing this year. Mr Rallis said: "We have selected six places which are traditional settlements, each an unspoiled village representative of its area—architecturally, culturally and physically."

The tourist organization was buying or renting houses in the village, many of them abandoned, refurbishing them inside and out, and improving essential amenities without tampering with the traditional harmony. They will be rented to the tourists.

The "traditional settlements" are: Vathia in the Mani, Makrynitisa on Mount Pilon, Mesta on Chios, Zagorika in Epirus, Piskardo on Cephalonia, and St John Theologos on Thessos.

We sign a contract with the owners for 10 or 15 years," Mr Rallis said. "They have the right to use it one or two months each year. We will have 400 beds in such houses this year. Next year 800 beds. And there are signs that the local people are appreciating what we are doing to preserve the national heritage, and are willing to cooperate."

The idea of reviving the traditional settlements was also financially sound as under the project the investment would be £1,600 to £2,000 a bed, against £8,000 making plans to neutralize to £9,500 for a bed in an the adverse side-effects of the tourist boom.

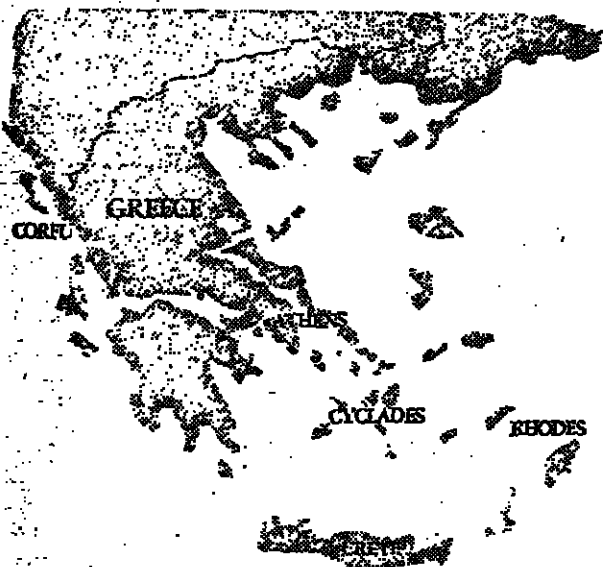
The tourist organization is spending £2m this year for the traditional settlements. "Even more important is that in this way you develop areas which are not amenable to other forms of economic development," the minister said.

Another way of softening the impact of mass tourism was to extend the tourist season and spread the number of visitors more evenly throughout the year, avoiding the congestion of mid-summer. To achieve this

continued on page IV

It is most fitting that a people with such a feeling for fun, music and life itself, should choose me as their favourite god.

Dionysus, God of the vine and the good life



Dionysus, alias Bacchus, was destined to become the greatest deity in later ancient Greece. And although probably an intruder from Thrace, seldom has an outsider been so warmly welcomed.

As lord of the good life and giver of wine, his popularity was assured. It is no wonder that he was generally accompanied by all manner of revelry.

Greek theatre began in his honour as a religious rite, and it was his patronage that led to the creation of the comedies and tragedies that were to captivate the world.

If Dionysus appeals, then be thankful that gods are immortal. For his spirit of enjoyment lives on in Greece today.

To be led at night through Athens' Plaka of a thousand shops, clubs and tavernas is to encounter a whirlwind of pleasure than can only be Greek.

And the Greek experience is a rare all-season affair.

The sun bathes a string of beaches in gold from the very first day of spring to the last of autumn, from the relaxed, temperate, uncrowded months of off-season Greece, to the popularity and excesses of the summer heights.

And none of this is confined to Athens.

Incomparable Corfu is famous the world over. And only seeing is believing.

The many faces of Crete entertain the tourist in a manner worthy of an island that saw the birth of our civilisation.

Rhodes, the universally popular Mediterranean playground, moves at a pace tailored to the energetic.

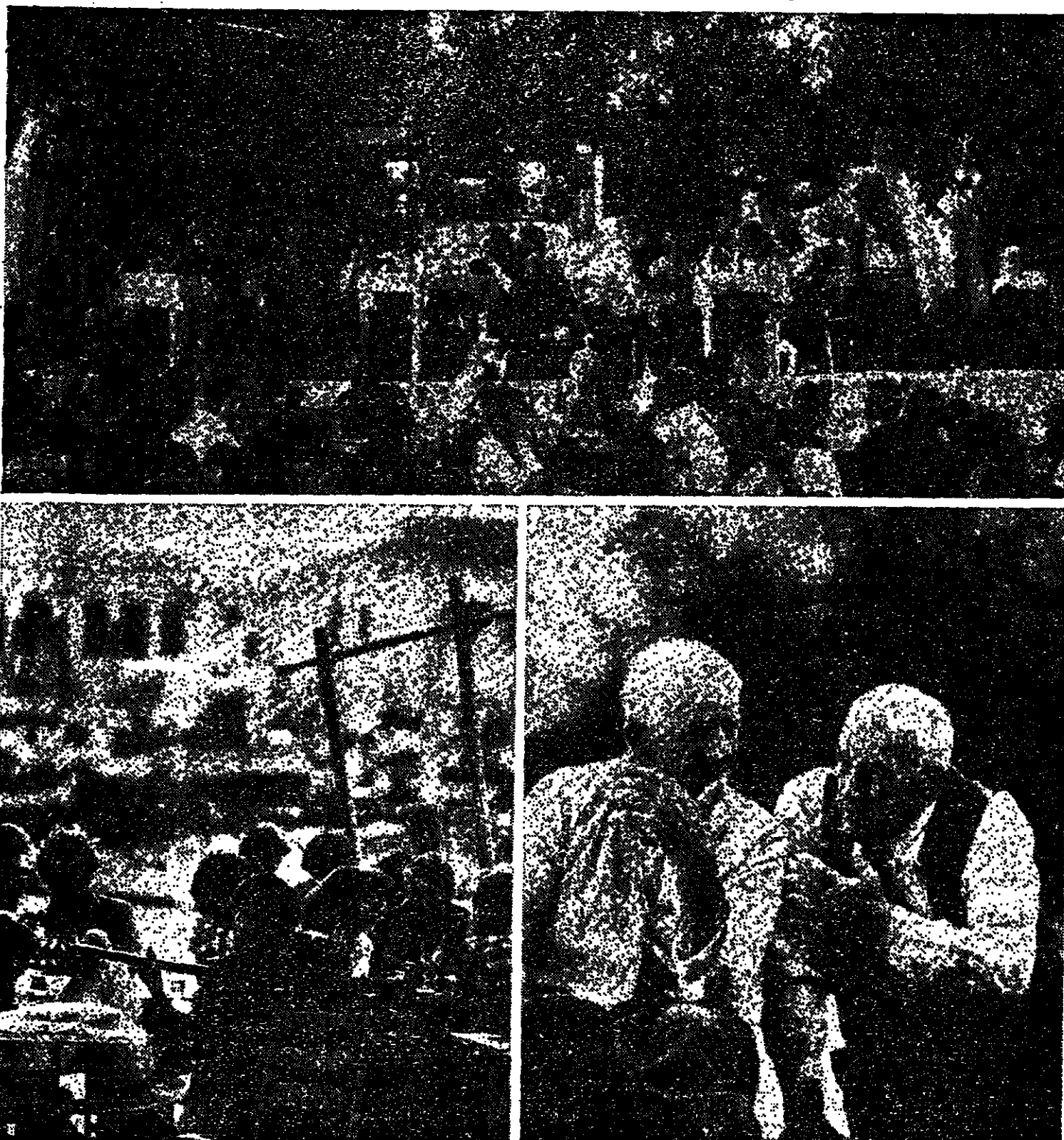
Whilst the Cycladic Isles are rightfully considered a "gift from the gods". The snail's pace of untouched Kea. The abundance of good living on Naxos, where Dionysus once presided over "wine classes".

And mysterious Santorini, where lost Atlantis may yet be found.

Such a limited tour can only tempt, but if tempted you are, just write to: The National Tourist Organisation of Greece, 195-7 Regent Street, London W.1 Or call 01-734 5997/8/9. Or ask your travel agent.

We'll give you all the information on the incredible choice of holidays, and how to fly there on our National Airline, Olympic Airways.

And whether you're a package tourist, a cruiser, or a camper, you are certain, like Dionysus before you, to be totally intoxicated by the Greek experience.



Greece and the Hellenic Isles.

They're closer than you think.

Athens: do it yourself

by Sheila Walsh

There is more to Athens than can ever be packed into a guided tour, so my advice to the discerning tourist is: explore the city on your own. During an unregimented, five-day visit one can not only see the city, but enjoy it and come to feel something of an Athenian.

It need not even cost a fortune if you stay at comfortable B-class hotels such as the centrally located Galaxy, Misaera or the Athenian Inn, where double rooms with bath and continental breakfast cost about £12 a night.

Once you have your base, you can set out to discover the city. For the past 2,500 years visiting Athens has meant seeing the Acropolis, this year one sees scaffolding and workmen there, as the experts work to save the monuments of the Acropolis from the ravages of the pollution produced by the traffic and the chimneys of modern Athens. Despite scaffolding the Parthenon remains majestic.

There is much to be said for going on to the National Museum while the impressions of the Acropolis are still fresh in one's mind. Its vast collection of the art of ancient Greece makes it one of the world's great museums.

One of the museum's most exciting treasures, the

Thera exhibit, is often overlooked by visitors because it is on the upper floor. The Thera rooms have frescoes and artifacts excavated in recent years at Akrotiri, on the Aegean island of Thera, where a Minoan city was buried intact after a volcanic eruption about 1500 B.C. The frescoes, remarkable for their charming freshness as well as their beauty, give a vivid picture of a highly developed civilization.

All this splendour should be followed by a really good meal. Gerofitakas (10, Pindarus Street), which takes its name from the old palm tree that still stands in the dining room, is one of Athens's classic restaurants, where a meal for two can cost as little as £8 or as much as £20. Their admirable Greek recipes, mazes, doner kebabs, pitas, spring chicken with mushrooms, and fish are all displayed for the diner.

Another day should be spent around the Plaka, the old quarter of modern Athens. It leads a double life. By night it is filled with high-decibel bouzouki music, neon signs, busy tavernas and a carnival air. By day it is a quiet neighbourhood with small, old-fashioned houses, artisans' shops and winding streets that work their way up to the foot of the Acropolis.

In the upper reaches of the Plaka nestles the small area known as Anafiotika, a cluster of whitewashed

village houses that takes the visitor into another world. It was built in the middle of the nineteenth century by island seafarers who had come to Athens to work, and made for themselves a replica of their village on the island of Anafiotika. Many of their houses still stand. From the narrow streets the stroller glimpses courtyards with fig trees, women doing their washing, and unexpected views of the Acropolis or a tiny white church.

The museum of Greek Popular Art on Kydathineon Street in the Plaka provides a glimpse of the interior of an old village house as it might have been. It is a reconstruction of a room, decorated with wall paintings by the primitive painter Theophrastos of dashingly muscled nineteenth-century Greek heroes. This small, well-arranged museum also has excellent collections of traditional Greek embroideries and costumes.

One of Athens's newest museums is high up in the Plaka. The Kanellopoulos Museum, a handsome neo-classical mansion, houses a collection of pottery, ceramics, jewelry and icons spanning Greek history from ancient to medieval times.

The Athens flea market, Monastiraki, is close to the Plaka. It is unlikely to yield any spectacular bargains because the sellers know their wares. But the wares and the merchants make a colourful show.

The nocturnal Plaka is also part of Athens life, and dinner at the Xynos taverna (Angelou Yerosos 4) is one of the pleasures of the city. In the courtyard or in the inside rooms decorated with Athenian scenes, the food is typically Greek, washed down with good retsina to the accompaniment of Greek musicians. The bill should be about £20 (£3.17 a person with wine).

Although Sunion is 43 miles away, no trip to Athens would be complete without a visit to its Temple of Poseidon and the drive along the sparkling coastline of Attica. The temple stands dramatically on a rocky headland high over the sea. Lord Byron was a visitor, and not only immortalized it in verse but left his name scratched on one of the temple columns. There are good bathing places near by, as well as restaurants for those who want to make a day of it.

In the evening back in town, one might dine at the Taverna Anna (Pericleous Stavrou 3, off Kifissia Avenue), a favorite with the governors of Athens. The menu includes mushroom salad, snails in tomato sauce, courgette with a delicate yogurt and garlic sauce, and good wine. With careful wine the bill should be just under £20 a person.

Athens also offers a quick trip to Byzantium. The first stop should be the Byzantine Museum, which occupies enough is housed in a five-story villa. The museum contains an enormous collection of icons and models of churches. Follow the museum visit with a picnic lunch near the Kaisariani Monastery. The eleventh-century Byzantine monastery stands on the pine-covered slopes of Mount Hymettus, where old women gather wild thyme and sage. The monastery precincts are cool and shaded even on the hottest day.

A late afternoon trip to the eleventh-century church and cloister at Daphni, with its magnificent mosaics, could round off the day. There is also the summer wine festival at Daphni, with readings of Greek music and dance.

Another day in Athens might well start with a look at Athens from a different angle. Go to the top of Mount Lycabettos, the city's other hill. A funicular climbs to a whitewashed chapel at the summit and a spectacular view of Athens, the sea, and on a clear day, the islands. On some days however one can also see the cloud of smog that is damaging the Acropolis monuments.

Halfway down the hill a cafe offers a shady terrace, nice mezes and a view. Part of the panorama seen from Lycabettos is Tourkolimano, the picturesque small boat port halfway between Athens and Piraeus. It may seem familiar because the harbour lined with brightly coloured restaurant awnings makes a perfect scene for travel posters. Although the place has most definitely been "discovered" the Athenians themselves still go there for Tourkolimano's engaging mixture of retsina, fish, Greek salad and boats. In hot weather it is best to go there at dinner time.

by John Carter

Because Mr John C. Carras chose to approach the task of holiday resort development from a different viewpoint, the Greeks are building their first stable amphitheatre for 2,000 years, thousands of citrus, olive and almond trees have been planted on previously barren land, a cattle breeding establishment has been launched, and a million vines planted on a 4,500-acre site on Khalkidhiki, a peninsula jutting into the Aegean south of Salomika. A

new community has been created, an old one saved from extinction.

The Carras concept was to make the resort—Porto Carras—a place where the tourist could meet local people and become involved in the way of life. It is an extension of his philosophy as applied to the special interest cruises organized by his shipping company.

To achieve his aim, he reversed the normal development procedure. Generally, this means that hotels, villas and apartments are built as quickly as possible in order to recoup capital expenditure, recre-

ational facilities added afterwards and little more than lip service paid to the overall environment.

At 70, Mr Carras obviously felt he had enough experience and success to justify doing it his way, so he set out to create the environment first, putting in a network of roads and cultivating the land which he had bought from the Athos monasteries. The agricultural development of the estate was carried out over five years and already the Carras winery produces a million bottles of Thessalon-type wine each year. The estate's livestock will

provide an adequate supply of fresh meat for the resort and the planners have even set up an apiary which produces about 10 tons of honey a year.

All that began in the mid-1960s. It was not until 1973 that construction of the resort complex was begun, on a site of about 450 acres with a beach frontage of more than half a mile. When completed and officially opened in 1976 it will be the largest hotel/recreational development under single ownership, with room for 3,000 guests in its two large hotels, its village inn and cottages. There is no doubt that it will alter the pattern of tourism in this generally neglected area of Greece.

It is already receiving visitors, and in May the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra will inaugurate the open-air theatre there when the Carras liner Danes calls at the port on a special in-

terest musical cruise. Other calls are scheduled during the year.

Among the resort's other facilities will be an 18-hole championship standard golf course, a marina with 180 moorings, 15 tennis courts, of which one has been designed for international tournaments, eight open-air and one indoor swimming pools, a convention centre seating 2,000, art and handicraft centres.

The Carras concept is aimed at upper-bracket tourists who want plenty to keep them occupied and who demand high quality. In some respects it has been compared to the Costa Smeralda development created by the Aga Khan. But unlike that area, Porto Carras is very much one man's creation and if it succeeds it open-air theatre there when the Carras liner Danes calls at the port on a special in-



Mr John C. Carras, photographed at Porto Carras, the estate he is developing in Khalkidhiki. In addition to the tourist area, due to open in 1978, the estate includes vineyards, citrus plantations, olive groves and farms.

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Crete: proud and singular people

by Mark Ottaway

It was after dinner in a restaurant named Revolutions in Heraklion, 10 years ago this Easter, that I conceived the ambition to know Greece. It began with a sound which to me then seemed almost indistinguishable from the wail of a tom-cat: that of the lyre, a stringed instrument, striking one of the stately dances of the island.

Soon half a dozen men—men only—took the floor and, holding hands, began to perform a measured circular step around the room. The leader, secured to the next man by a handkerchief grasped by both, would perform occasional feats of bravado, twists, leaps and calf slappings, until finally breaking free he would perform a last leaping dance step a chair or table, before joining the rear of the file and ceding the lead to the next man.

It was not so much the elegance, grace and emotion (finely poised in that uncertain area between exuberance and grief) of the dance that moved me as that these were all elderly, ordinary men: for all I knew the local grocer, road mender, dustman and plumber, all middle aged or beyond, all moved by some emotion, tradition and ability unknown to or forgotten by their Western European counterparts. I had to know what and why.

I imagine that Adam Hopkins, the author of *Crete, Its Past, Present and People* (Faber £5.50), must have had a similar experience. In any event he has written the book I wish I had had on my first visit to Crete. It is essentially a primer, assuming that we are beginners to Crete and Greece. Its only irritant is also the hallmark of its success: it raises almost as many questions as it answers and leaves one hungry for more (to which end there is a voluminous bibliography)—not least for more of the evocative line drawings by Victor Shreeve.

The format Hopkins has chosen, a quick canter through 3,500 years of history from Minoan times to the present, capped with some deftly and sensitively penned portraits of the modern island and its people, is ideally suited to his purpose, for the Cretans, more than any other Europeans, have been moulded by their geography and history. I am grateful for having my attention drawn to what I always knew but never realized: that the essential beauty of Minoan artifacts is that they never portray pomp or war.

I am prejudiced about the Minoans, believing that their contribution to European culture has been underrated and that it owes much to the freedom, if not

power, which women enjoyed in their society. Hence I am delighted to learn that the dark misanthrope, St Paul, was swept from Crete shores by a storm and deposited on Malta instead. The usually forgotten years of Crete's history (from the fall of the Minoan civilization to the nineteenth century struggle for independence from the spell of their country—as Turks have been generously treated, for it was these years, as Hopkins says, which "combined to make the Cretans so proud and singular a race"). He has the honesty to admit the failings of the modern Cretans (especially when given reinforced conviction to know as much as Crete to build with) and that they are not always on easy people to know. The foreigner, overwhelmed by their philoxenia (love of strangers) may suddenly come up against a frustrating or even baffling barrier of... is it hostility or some stern unbending pride? It happens rarely, but always, it seems, just when the feeling of belonging, understanding and acceptance glows the happiest.

Cretans can seem the Greekest of the Greeks, and for those who fall under the spell of their country—as Hopkins has done, and as all who read this sensitive and informative book will have every opportunity to do—the relationship between Greeks and foreigners has all the antinomies of a love affair. The compulsion to know as much as Crete to build with) and that they are not always on easy people to know. The foreigner, overwhelmed by their philoxenia (love of strangers) may suddenly come up against a frustrating or even baffling barrier of... is it hostility or some stern unbending pride? It happens rarely, but always, it seems, just when the feeling of belonging, understanding and acceptance glows the happiest.

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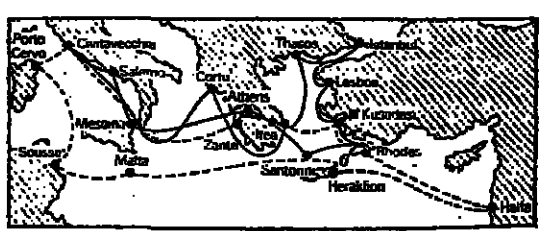
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مكتبة الأصيل

How to get the best of both worlds



Koutsoumari, a privately restored village which is popular with holidaymakers.

by Gladys Nicol

For some time it has been obvious that a halt must be called to the indiscriminate building of hotels along both the mainland and island coastlines of Greece if the highly individual atmosphere is to be maintained.

The National Tourist Organization of Greece (ETO) also believes that half the attraction for visitors to their country is the opportunity to meet and live alongside local inhabitants rather than to be incarcerated in tourist complexes meeting only other tourists. The organization believes it has found a solution which could offer this and, at the same time, provide the work to stop the inevitable drift to the already overcrowded cities and resorts by the younger members of rural communities.

The ETO will continue to invest in tourist accommodation, but by adapting some of the most interesting and unique traditional houses in various provinces so that the holidaymaker will come to villages rather than to the villages which disappear in the service of the tourists. This is also costly, for initial work is expected to be in the region of £2m. Work has begun on both the interior and exterior restoration of properties, and on the provision of adequate facilities, central tavernas, restaurants and so on. In most instances Greek families will be living in close proximity, so that visitors can become part of local community in more easily.

On Santorini, for instance, 60 small houses, each averaging five rooms, are being restored, while on Chios, at Mesta, 50 houses of a similar size will become available, and, on both islands, a small proportion will be ready to receive their first occupants this summer, with the remainder completed by 1978. Rental of the while still enjoying will be possible from site offices during 1977, but the

final scale of charges has not yet been fixed.

The traditional houses of Piliom in northern Greece are much larger in concept. Mostly, they are taller and larger, as befits both landscape and the climate, and offer an interesting opportunity for holiday visitors to stay in properties otherwise seldom open to foreigners. The eight houses scheduled for restoration in the villages of Vassitsa and Makritissa, will have 15 and 20 rooms apiece, and again will have neighbouring Greeks in the vicinity, but they will not be available for occupation before 1978. Another interesting restoration is taking place at Lamina, near Monemvasia in the same district, and this should be ready to receive guests within two years.

When these initial projects are completed others will follow. Two of them, at Vassitsa and at the Tower of Arhopolis near Manti, are the Peloponnese, one is at Fiskardo in Cephalonia, and at Zagoria in northern Epirus so that, when completed, the traditional settlements will be scattered through Greece and cover many typical examples of architecture and ways of life.

The idea is not new. Even within Greece, there is already one delightful privately restored village proving exceptionally popular with holidaymakers, which is featured in the brochures of Allsun, Erna Low, Olympia, and Travel Workshop. This is at Koutsoumari in southern Crete, near Ierapetra, and is the brainchild of Eleni Nakou, whose Elounda Beach complex in Crete is so successful.

Costs at Koutsoumari vary slightly with season and with operators, dependent on whether a car is included in the package but, broadly speaking, a fortnight in early June, with a cottage for six people, cleaning services and car hire is about £220 each. By making private arrangements a similar cottage costs a little over £100 a week, including cleaning services, linen and so on, but no flights or car hire are included. This could provide the best of both worlds when, with the help of their Greek neighbours, visitors are invited into the rural way of life while still enjoying adequate plumbing and satisfactory service.

Swinging sport

There can be more to a Greek holiday than rolling on a beach for those who do not consider sunbathing a sport. Golf and skiing have in recent years joined yachting as attractions for holidaymakers.

The climate makes Greece something of a paradise for the golfer who does not feel that physical discomfort is an essential part of the game. Winters are mild and in summer golfers tend to play in the cooler morning or late afternoon.

In Athens last year there were only two days out of 365 when the weather interfered with golf. Tours packaged especially for golfers are on offer, and last year 50,000 foreigners played golf in Greece.

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The Glyfada Golf Club on the outskirts of Athens has an 18-hole, 6,125-metre course which is rated as A-class. Mr Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, regularly plays there. It has an attractive clubhouse with a restaurant. The club's facilities are open to visitors. The green fees are £400 (£6.35) on weekdays, £600 on weekends, and £2,000 for a week. Clubs and caddies are available for hire.

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Haunting memories

by Joyce Rackham

Of all the memories of Greece which endure long after one's travels are over, some of the most vivid and haunting are those of the sight and scent of the flowers and plants, both wild and cultivated, which cover the land in such rich variety. Spring visits provide the greatest visual treat, while in mid-summer, with so much of the countryside withering in great heat, botanists can make many exciting finds in the mountainous regions where the flora is remarkable.

In the autumn, the spectacle of the vintage enthralls many areas, and by choosing your destination carefully searching for plants can be rewarding. The winter climate generally (apart from the mountainous areas) is usually much milder than most parts of Western and Eastern Europe. Then the delicate beauty of snowdrops, and brilliantly coloured crocuses and anemones are a striking feature of the flora in many places.

Lawrence Durrell, in his nostalgic *Reflections on a Marine Venus*, written after a stay in Rhodes, gives a fascinating and useful illustration of the flora in *Calendar of Saints and Flowers*, at the end, adding a few local superstitions and legends to good effect. On a spring visit to Rhodes, this book was an admirable travelling companion, as we drove along country roads past fields ablaze with golden crown daisies, masses of poppies and brilliant blue larkspur.

An essential item in the luggage of any flower enthusiast or botanist visiting Greece should be the newly published *Flowers of Greece* by Anthony Huxley and William Taylor (Chatto and Windus, £3.95, paperback; £6.50 hardback). It is a well written, richly illustrated book with colour pictures and line drawings, and combines the essential information on a wide range of the flowers and plants with some of the myths and legends they inspired, and the ancient medicinal remedies for which they were used.

The chapter on island flowers devotes much space to Crete, which has 130 endemic species, and a remarkable mountain flora too. We found early May a marvellous time to go there, with May 1 being a

particularly popular public holiday when everybody wanted to leave the towns to drive out to pick wild flowers in the country. They swarmed over the hills around Knossos, weaving garlands of flowers to wear, hanging on bicycle handlebars or decorate car bonnets.

A number of tour operators arrange special holidays for flower-lovers, combining them with visits to ancient sites, sometimes with bird-watching or tours of national parks. Peregrine Holidays, part of Town and Country of Oxford, have several imaginative tours in Crete, the Peloponnese, Macedonia and northern Greece, accompanied by expert lecturers. Prices are from about £330 for a fortnight, with half board.

Corfu Villas are running Wild Flower Tours to Corfu in late April and in May, costing about £150 for a week at the delightful Cavallieri Hotel in Corfu town, and escorted by a local expert. Corfu's flora includes many beautiful terrestrial orchids. Fairways and Swinford, whose more adventurous tours include Himalayan trekking and flower hunting in Nepal and Kashmir, are running spring and autumn flower and flower tours to Corfu—costing from about £400 for two weeks. The former includes the chance to go plant-hunting on Mount Parnassus.

Cox and King's Special Interest Holidays (14 days from about £250) include two spring tours to Corfu (where more than 130 species of birds were sighted last year) "to catch the spring migration", as well as a special bird tour of Crete. Hayes and Jarvis operate The Wild Places of Greece tours, in association with the World Wildlife Fund. They operate 12-day tours for about £310. One includes a visit to the well known, richly illustrated *Flowers of Greece*, famous for its pelicans and aquatic bird populations. Inhabitants of the mountains and forests near by include wolves, jackals and brown bears, which should make that tour exciting.

Erna Low lists 14-day holidays at the superbly restored village houses of Koutsoumari, in southern Crete, which would make an ideal base for studying botany, bird-watching or too. We found early May just commencing with nature was a marvellous time to go there, with May 1 being a

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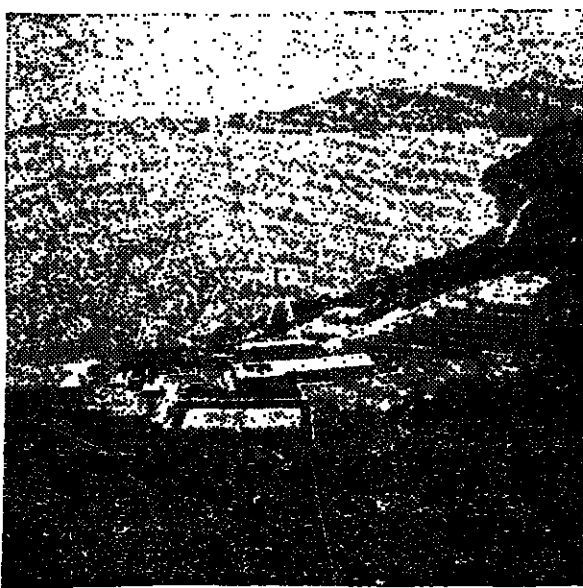
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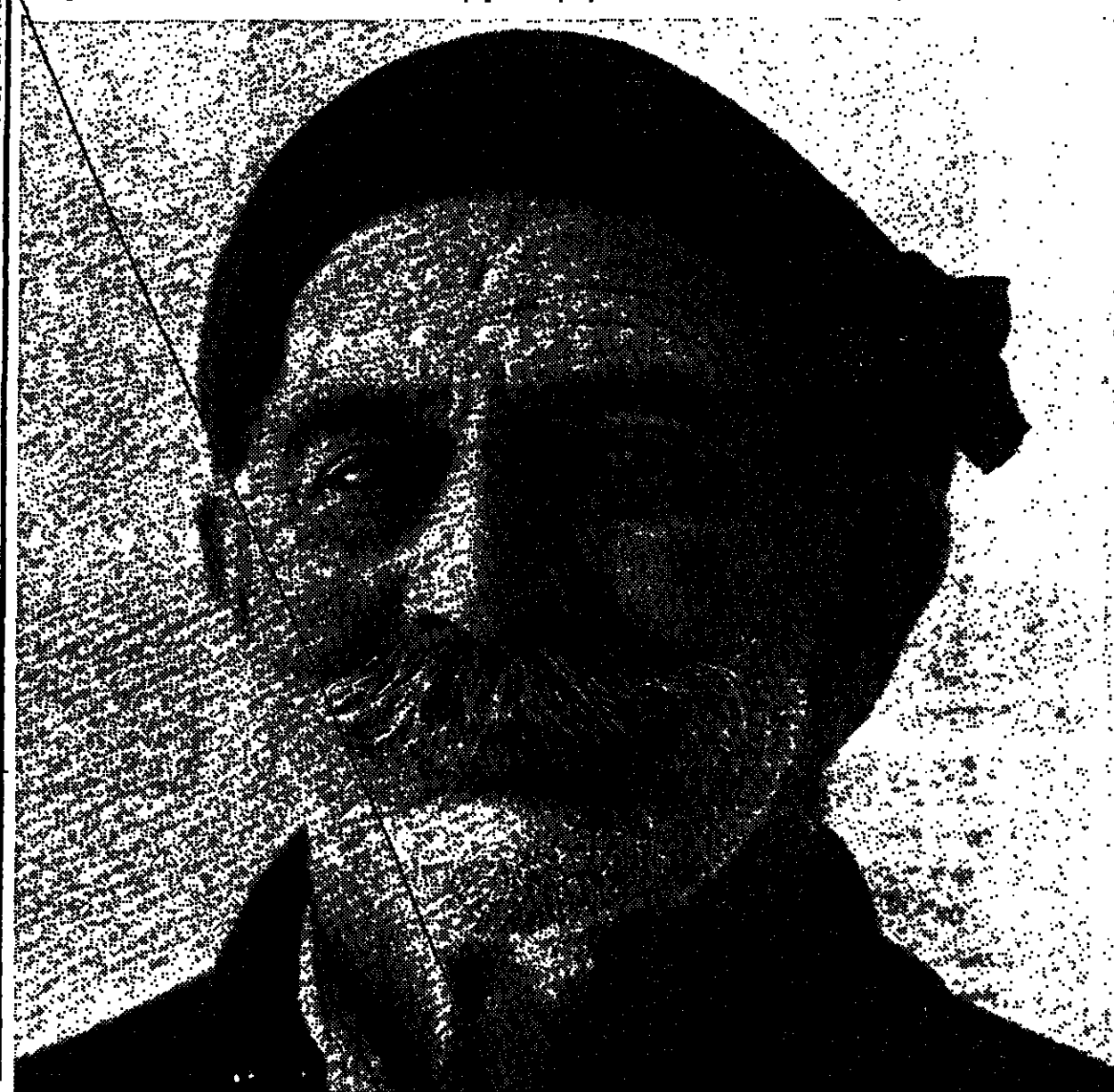
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Half board is a gourmet's licence

by Diana Patt

Eating out in Greece can take an evening or an hour; can be a delight or a disaster.

Among the most memorable for me have been those eaten in the open air. One such was on the island of Hydra, when half a dozen local people joined us to eat young lamb, basted with lemon and rosemary and turned on a spit. While we waited for it to cook we ate taramasalata and houmous, mapped up with hunks of bread and accompanied by retsina from a cask in the proprietor's cellar.

This wine was at the same time gentler and more insidious than the usual bottled variety. Another unforgettable occasion was at a quayside taverna at Ierá petra, on Crete, where we

were served baked red mullet spiked with herbs and a mixed Greek salad topped with crumbly feta cheese and olives.

Sadly, the less memorable meals have been those table d'hôte menus offered in the vast majority of hotels, which tend to be regimented and without choice.

Notices fixed to bedroom doors in Greek hotels announce firmly the specified amounts of bread, butter and jam must be submitted at breakfast. This

quite well cooked, but bland and disappointingly un-Greek. Many of the dishes were concocted ones using minced meat, and desserts were often tasteless apples rather than the *louka*—the fresh fruit which looks like an apricot tastes like a lychee and grows everywhere on the island.

A package holiday to Crete last May to a B category hotel in Aghios Nikolaos was tremendous value at £104 each for half board for two weeks. The hotel was extremely comfortable, the staff courteous, the food quite well cooked, but bland and disappointingly un-Greek. Many of the dishes were concocted ones using minced meat, and desserts were often tasteless apples rather than the *louka*—the fresh fruit which looks like an apricot tastes like a lychee and grows everywhere on the island.

We were grateful we had only half-board so that we

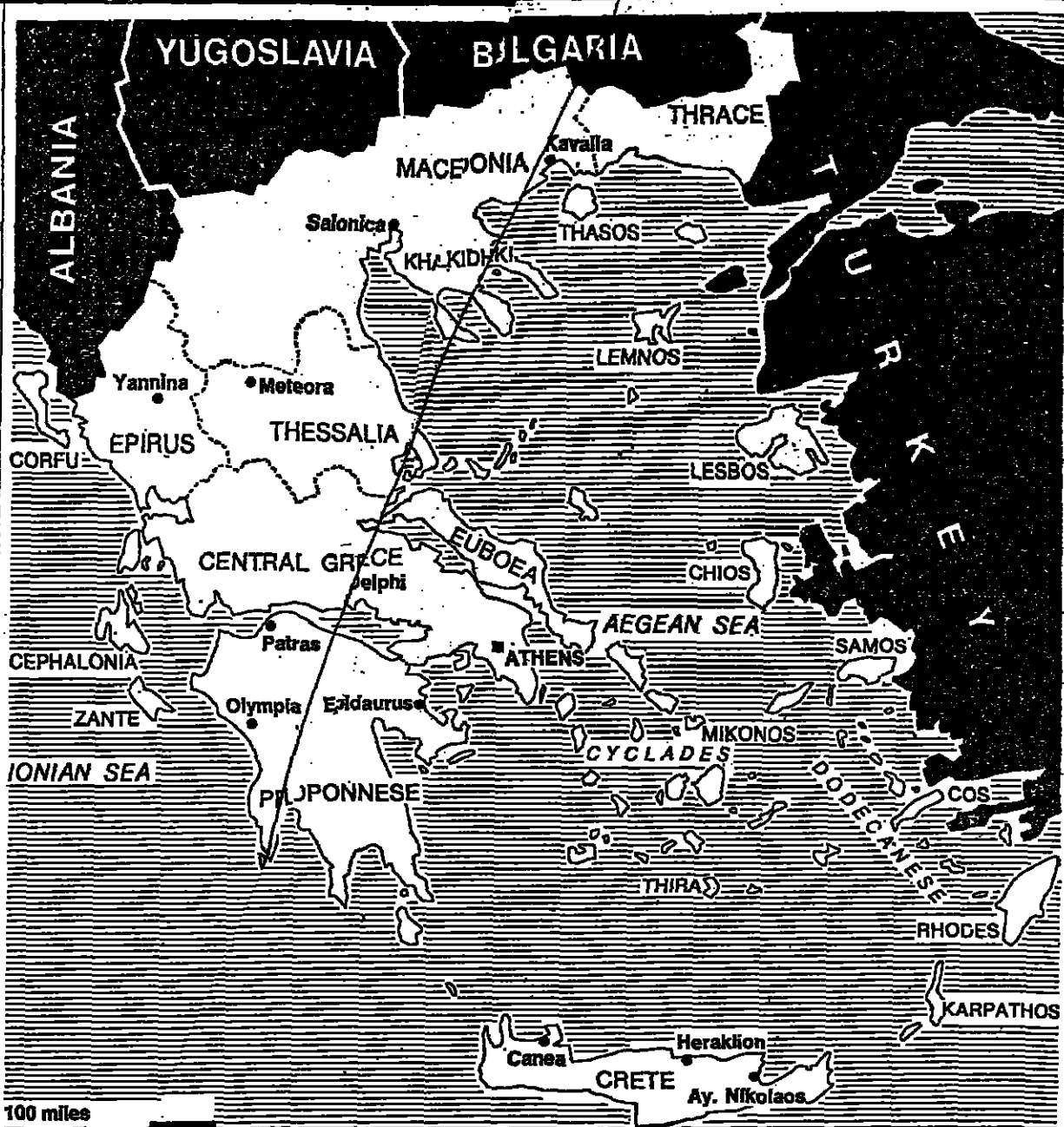
could justify eating outside the hotel at least once a day. In the evening we explored the many tavernas in the resort and near by. The swordfish or octopus were always sea fresh and perfectly cooked to order.

Being invited to look for the fish of one's choice in the glass-walled refrigerator was part of the enjoyment. During the day we explored the island on mopeds—car hire at £12 a day was one of the

Atension—and found villages off the tourist track where the proprietor of the one bar might cook us an omelette or where, as happened in one place, the establishment was too poor to have any food for chance visitors and we were offered that the safe food wine, tinned sardines and approved for the package hard-baked bread, which they soaked under the tap pale shadow of what is so that it tasted of porridge. We did discover one greater cost in the tavernas.

Cretan hotel where the food was fabulous. This was the de luxe Mino Beach, in an incomparable flower garden setting bounded by the rocky, indented coastline. The Sunday buffet lunch at £3 a head offered a princely selection of dozens of hot and cold dishes, a variety of salads, the whole rounded off with goat's milk yoghurt and local honey.

A spokesman for the National Tourist Organization of Greece explains that hotels below category A "provide what the tour operators want" and hotels and tavernas alike conform to the standards and prices set out and monitored by a section of the tourist police, the *Agonomiki*. How sad that the "safe" food approved for the package tourist turns out to be a pale shadow of what is offered à la carte and at no greater cost in the tavernas.



Network of ferries

by John Carter

Of all holiday memories, none is more evocative than that of a sun-drenched island approached from a calm sea. White houses dazzle the eye as a village sprawls down a hillside, among the olive trees, towards a waterfront busy with small craft. Closer one sees the bright awnings of quayside restaurants, spilling tables and chairs out on to a wide promenade. For many that scene, that memory, spells out the appeal of Greece, whose islands beckon from its wine dark sea.

Cruising around those Greek islands has long been a popular form of holiday-making, and may be enjoyed in various ways. For the independent traveller, a network of ferries serves the islands from Piraeus, though the purist would argue that travel on one of these is not cruising in the strict sense of the word.

For such visitors a round trip ticket on the 1,100 ton Saronic Star takes them on a day-long journey to Aegina, Hydra and Poros for £13.50, including lunch on board. Though the ship operates as a regular daily ferry, to call at these Saronic Gulf islands must qualify for the cruise label, especially as one may remain on one of the islands for a few days before rejoining the vessel

on its daily call, the ticket retaining its validity.

Most people equate cruising with larger vessels, and for them a number of journeys are available in 1977, as a glance through the brochures will show. The 23,000 ton Navarino of Karageorgis Lines sails on alternate Saturdays from Venice on a two-week voyage to Corfu, Mikonos and Delos, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete and Santorini, among other ports.

That is cruising in the grander style, as are the voyages of Costa Line's Andrea C, running a series of 12-day cruises to Delos, Mikonos, Rhodes, Santorini and Corfu, and the Chantier vessel Florita which calls at Corfu, Crete and Rhodes on its week-long journeys. As with Navarino, these two vessels sail from Venice, and are available as fly/cruise holidays.

A cabin for two on the Navarino costs from £550 each (cruise alone) or £666 (fly/cruise). Equivalent costs on the Andrea C range from £449 or £525 respectively; and on the Florita from £227 or £252.

There are other liners sailing among the Greek islands this year, and any competent travel agent should be able to provide details. He would certainly know about the programme offered by Swans Hellenic Cruises on Orpheus. These cruises have been enormously popular for many years, and passengers have the benefit of expert lecturers on board.

Something to talk about

by Joyce Rackham

On an unseasonably rainy night at the end of last October, with more than 2,000 delegates and guests at the twenty-sixth convention of the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA), we drove to Microlimano, the yachting harbour of Athens, for a remarkable party given by the Greek National Tourist Organization.

They had taken over nearly all the fish restaurants and tavernas lining the quayside, and we could choose to dine where we liked. It was great fun, and a welcome change from the boring banquets, with "safe" international food, too often inflicted on conference guests.

The Greeks' ability to entertain with their traditional hospitality and panache, and to show originality, was further proved the next day, after the opening ceremony of the convention. Instead of the usual formal luncheon, we were all taken to the port of Piraeus for a magnificent buffet served on board cruise ships of the Karageorgis, Sun Hellenic Mediterranean and Epiri-tiki lines, as guests of the shipowners. Several hundred delegates and guests were also taken on cruises round the islands on those vessels after the convention ended.

Athens must be one of the most agreeable cities in which to hold a conference. Its climate and setting are

beautiful, and it offers the chance to combine business and city pleasures with visits to the ancient sites or the islands.

In the past few years, as the number of suitable hotels and facilities has increased, Greece has attracted a much greater number of international conferences. These ranged from the International Dental Federation, attended by 7,000 and held in a variety of venues in Athens to small cultural conferences. They also included the Esperanto Congress, which 2,000 people attended at the Pantios Graduate School, one of a number of non-residential centres in the same city.

Athens has a growing list of hotels with conference installations, headed by the splendidly equipped Hilton, where the ABTA meeting was held. Many others, notably the elegant Grand Bretagne in Constitution Square, have excellent conference and entertaining rooms. For the many delegates who cannot afford the top hotels, there is a wide selection, pleasant and comfortable, at more modest prices. Conference organizers should avoid choosing those which are not within easy distance of their meeting place, because traffic jams and shortage of taxis in rush hours can cause considerable difficulties.

For the British, it is comforting to note that prices of taxis, hotels, restaurants and drinks (apart from the obviously luxurious places)

are usually a lot lower than at home.

Salonica, Greece's second largest city and capital of Macedonia, is the centre for many conferences, and it is a pity that the fame of its long-established International Trade Fair often causes its own attractions to be neglected. We found it had some fine hotels, very lively night life, as many good restaurants and tavernas as Athens if not more, and magnificent Byzantine churches.

"Corfu has not yet lost all of its bucolic innocence", the official Greek conference handbook says. It may soon be in danger of doing so, for Mr Peter Analysis, director of the Greek National Tourist Office in London, tells me that a number of conferences have been held there, since some large new hotels, like the Corfu Hilton, the Chantier, and the Xenia Palace, were opened.

Rhodes, with its exceptionally mild climate, is another increasingly popular conference centre, and it has plenty of suitable hotels.

Crete is so rich in ancient sites and the variety of its wonderful landscape that it could prove too distracting for conference delegates.

For a cultural congress however, the island would be superb, and in late autumn, winter or very early spring the Elounda Beach Hotel, near Aghios Nikolaos, could accommodate a fairly small one most comfortably. So could the newer Maleme Beach, near the former capital, Khamia.

Aiming to set an example

continued on page 1

The Government was investing in installations for winter sports, including skiing, though one cannot always rely on finding snow.

Tour operators are encouraged to bring in winter parties through the winter ports, including skiing, though one cannot always rely on finding snow.

Mr Tzanis Tzanetakis, secretary general of the tourist organization, says that a target figure such as 6,500,000 tourists a year would create some misleading impressions. Six and a half million tourists staying on an average of 12 days thanks to tourism we are each throughout the year, means an average of 200,000 tourists daily, although they are not evenly spread throughout the year. However, this means an average of 2.2 per cent of the total population. I think we can hold the people there is a myth that you can reach a ratio of between 5 through tourism."

on public beaches. "This will be forbidden", Mr Tzanis Tzanetakis said. "We are parties to several international treaties which prohibit such discrimination by health hazard. They can go and pitch their tents at fully."

The unsightly spectacle of promiscuous nudity that had become the trade mark of the island of Mikonos, also comes to an end this summer, the minister said. "We are either going to ban it altogether, or confine the nudists to a secluded area so they cannot offend the taste of other tourists", he said.

It was not possible, of course, to impose restrictions on the entry of nude people this year, as the

and 6 per cent without fear." For an economy like Greece's which is plagued by a permanent foreign trade deficit, tourism is a vital source of foreign exchange. It was second to shipping in 1976.

"We earned last year \$830m and the outlook is that the thousand million mark will be exceeded within a year or so", Mr Tzanis Tzanetakis said. "But what is more important is that we are developing areas where other economic development would be possible such as islands and mountain areas which had been losing their population fast because of the entry of the people there is a myth that you can reach a ratio of between 5 through tourism."

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THE BREAKDOWN IN MOSCOW

It will take a little time to digest the implications of the Soviet rebuff to Mr Vance in Moscow, but the first reaction need not be too pessimistic. Mr Vance delivered to the Russians, almost without warning, a package of far-reaching proposals on arms control which could not be digested immediately. Therefore the choice for the Russians was between taking note of the proposals in an open-minded and conciliatory manner or rejecting them outright. That they chose the second alternative is not surprising or even, at this stage, particularly disturbing.

In the first place they are anxious to demonstrate to President Carter that his stand on human rights is jeopardizing all aspects of détente. They would like to persuade him that he cannot negotiate effectively on arms control or on anything else without muting his statements on the subject. They will have been reinforced in their attitude by his decision, shortly before Mr Vance's talks, to ask for more money for broadcasts to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe by Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe. Hence it suits them to be less than immediately cooperative at this moment.

Secondly, the arms control package itself confronts them with serious difficulties, and they may feel they are more likely to get something better if they do not even accept it as a basis for discussion. Mr Carter has staked a lot on progress in this field so they know he will be under pressure to try again. There is still a little time in hand as the Salt I agreement does not run out until October.

If this is how the Russians

are thinking there will soon be signals on the way to Washington and negotiations will get under way. But the difficulties should not be underestimated. In crude outline what has happened is this. The Salt I agreement was supposed to establish a rough balance by allowing the Russians more missiles to compensate for America's lead in multiple warheads, but the Russians fairly developed their own multiple warheads, so Salt I, which was confined in Vladivostok in 1974, tried to deal with this by specifying how many missiles on each side could be equipped with multiple warheads. This agreement was also overruled by technology. The Cruise missile appeared on the scene and upset all existing categories by being a flying bomb of extraordinary versatility, capable of being launched from land, sea or air with a variety of warheads, ranges and roles.

The Russians wanted the Cruise missile included in Salt II. The Americans refused. In January, 1976, Dr Kissinger offered to impose restraints on it but when he returned to Washington it emerged that he had not fully understood the problems involved (he was not the only one), so three months later the Americans suggested signing Salt II on the original basis and dealing later with the Cruise missile. The Russians rejected this and they have now rejected roughly the same offer again, for it was Mr Vance's second preference.

But Mr Vance's first preference was new. It involved deep cuts in missiles coupled with restraints on Cruise missiles. For both sides this raises political

as well as military issues. Mr Carter can scarcely win support for restraints on a weapon as valuable as the Cruise missile without showing something very substantial in return. This is why he needs deep cuts in missiles. But the Russians, much as they would like to restrain the Cruise missile, would find it enormously difficult to reduce the number of their missiles. They have always put great faith in numbers, and they have only relatively recently managed to match the Americans in a way that they see as having earned them the respect due to a great power. It is almost inconceivable that Mr Brezhnev, nearing the end of his reign and presiding over a somewhat unstable coalition, could persuade either his generals or his political colleagues actually to dismantle expensive, newly acquired weaponry.

Mr Brezhnev's rejection of the American proposals therefore expresses something far more substantial than a fit of pique over human rights. But with luck it probably also expresses something less than total refusal to negotiate on arms control. Although it is as clear to the Russians as to everyone else that arms control alone will not solve everything, or even stop all aspects of the arms race, they must see that they have a real interest in trying for an agreement. They know that Mr Carter is now in a very strong position in Washington, and that if there is no agreement he could easily get congressional support for a very substantial increase in the American defence effort. They must also know that if they challenge him to an all-out arms race he will win.

Mr Healey's Budget

From Mr J. Mortimer Gountry
Sir, The Chancellor in his Budget speech yesterday (March 29) said: "I am particularly concerned about elderly people who now find themselves liable to the surcharge on the income from savings which are quite modest in modern terms."

Despite that he proposes to make quite paltry concessions (in modern terms) Is it not high time that the surcharge should be completely removed for, at least, those over 65? If that cannot be done, the surcharge should be removed from income from money saved out of taxed earnings. All investment income is today called "Unearned income." I would concede that income from inherited wealth is possibly unearned, but income from wealth acquired out of taxed earnings is surely well-earned!

Yours faithfully,
J. MORTIMER GOUNTRY,
White Cottage,
Leaholm,
Whitby,
Yorkshire,
March 30.

From the Reverend M. E. Bennett
Sir, Since the increased child benefit was awarded many months ago and is not part of the recent budget, would the Chancellor kindly explain how the reduction in income will benefit those of us with families who did not pay any tax before the budget ever appeared but who will now have to pay increased prices as a result of the switch to indirect taxation?

Yours sincerely,
M. E. BENNETT,
Swindon Rectory,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.

The state of prisons

From Mr Richard S. A. Berman
Sir, Mr B. D. Widdington wrote as Chairman of the Prison and Borstal Governors (The Times, March 28) when commenting on Peter Godfrey's article (March 18) about the state of prisons today.

Internal prison censorship precludes written replies to proposals but they have a right to be represented by a spokesman just as prison officers may be supported by recent press coverage and the rancour caused by the gelding of public reply by the reduction in the number of general prisoners' feelings upon my release from a sentence that I completed last month. I speak for those prisoners who are neither politically motivated nor campaigned for by the divers lobby groups such as "Provers."

I would accept the fact that a searching inquiry must be held to establish facts surrounding allegations from both sides concerned in prison disputes, we are wary of statements such as Mr Widdington's assertion that "no official version of events can be given until the truth has been established. The public at large regards most convicted criminals as perjurers and consequently any element of bias in favour of prison authorities in an 'official report' would be far more readily accepted than a bias favouring prisoners in a report compiled by a group who have some partisan link with those prisoners. The inference of his statement is that the truth has not been established and prisoners generally expect this to be followed by considerable delay and a subsequent suppression or 'whitewash' by the authorities.

Prisoners would also have to agree that readers should not believe that necessary for complaints to be smuggled out of prisons on a fair hearing. Machinery does exist for prisoners to complain but the channels are so numerous and circuitous and the mechanism so deliberately complicated that memories have often become hazy or have faded completely by the time the executive level has been reached.

Rules like the one stating

and an earned income above £7,000 p.a. will receive greater benefits from the Budget proposals than a married couple with a similar income and two children under 11 after taking into account child benefits. The converse would appear to be the case for incomes below £7,000 p.a.

Is this to be called socio-fiscal engineering?

Yours faithfully,
A. H. COOKE,
70 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2,
March 30.

From Mr David Eric
Sir, Many of us who live and work in the rural counties are unimpressed by Mr Healey's pious little homily justifying his increased tax burdens on the "private motorist" on conservation grounds. Since we have no choice but to continue to motor to work, we must grudgingly hand him yet another slice of our hard earned pay to spend as he thinks fit.

He tells us that "petrol will still be cheaper in Britain than in nearly all other countries of the European Community." This may be true in nominal terms, but where else do they have to work so many hours to earn the cash to fill up their tank?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ERIC,
15 St Peters Road,
Cirencester,
Gloucestershire,
March 30.

From Mrs N. Tollenaar
Sir, The Chancellor of the Exchequer puts an additional tax on cigarettes. No further tax on pipe tobacco "which plays an important part in the life of many retired people."

Is this not blatant sex discrimination? Faithfully,
N. TOLLENAAR,
74 Chester Square, SW1.

"prisoners cannot be punished for making allegations against prison staff, even when the allegations are proved not to be true" have an insidious air about them. Applying for the relevant request form for an interview with a senior officer invariably creates a visible air of tension between prisoner and junior officer. Discussion with the first interview, followed by an application to see someone "at a higher level," invariably creates an air of open hostility and often results in jibes such as "troublemaker" from officers to prisoner. Admittedly "punishment" is only merited out to those offenders who persistently and maliciously abuse the complaints procedure, but the covert unpleasantness and petty application of rigid regulations by irritated prison officers act far more as a deterrent than any prescribed punishment, and the consequence is a generally pathetic attitude to grievances by the prisoners themselves. After all—overcrowded cells, plain food and deprivation of liberty are enough for most people without the added penalty of ridicule and actual harassment. Prisoners must always remember a question from Home Office form 1328 that runs "The privileges that each prisoner enjoys, and these include letters and visits" etc. Very ambiguous, and frighteningly exposed to abuse when interpreted literally by an aggrieved officer.

Finally—readers should be informed that "Rule 43" is often invoked and certain categories of prisoner are segregated and kept in solitary confinement for their own protection. These prisoners are often child murderers or molesters, sexual deviants and psychopaths or terrorists. Perhaps someone can tell me why these people are often given a thorough and brutal beating before Rule 43 is applied—when everybody concerned in the prisons knows, directly upon admission, that the feelings of revulsion against this particular criminal are expressed violently by established tradition?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD S. A. BERMAN,
29 Cardington Road,
Hamstead, NW3,
March 28.

and the threat of more, which the police could not and probably would not overcome by calling in the Armed Forces of the Crown.

Mr Callaghan, behind that bland exterior a greayer, wittier head than either, is going about it in a different way, by saying one thing and doing the opposite.

But what will the trade unions do when they realize what he is up to? If they elect to confront him, and assert their primacy, he must either curb them or be smashed.

That he will seek to avoid this choice I am sure; but that it is unavoidable I have no doubt.

The conflict is not between this or that party at Westminster. It is between Westminster and Transport House.

I am your obedient servant,
JASPER KROTHAM,
Craig House,
Wall, Northumberland.

From Dr E. H. Kronheimer
Sir, Mr John Stokes, MP (March 31) asks to be told what a "moderate" socialist (his inverted commas) "stands for" (mine). Is he for nationalizing this industry and against nationalizing that one? Is he for or against picketing? And so on.

Perhaps a moderate may be defined as someone who is for a particular act of nationalization (or picketing) when he thinks that, on balance, the arguments are in its favour against it when he thinks they are not.

This certainly suggests that moderate socialists and moderate Liberals might have more in common with each other and indeed with moderate conservatives than with the absolutists of their various parties who require no expenditure of thought to know—and be known to know—that they are for and what they are against.

Yours faithfully,
ERWIN KRONHEIMER,
Birkbeck College,
Malet Street, WC1.

The future of broadcasting

From Mr M. Poole
Sir, To Milton Shulman newspapers seem unperturbed or indifferent or insensitive to the prospect of a fourth television channel financed from advertising (March 30).

He rightly observes that the mere presence of a fourth channel will not expand total expenditure on advertising. Yet he makes two assumptions: that the channel will automatically attract its necessary finance, and that this revenue will be drawn solely from newspapers. Both assumptions are questionable. He omits an essential point: the mere existence of a fourth channel will not expand total audiences for television.

A fourth channel will create competition for the existing ITV network, whose audience inevitably will be diluted and therefore relatively more expensive for the advertisers. The resistance to ITV2 by the Newspaper Publishers Association in their submission to Annan was not based on a "right to be protected against a powerful commercial monopoly." Newspapers do not claim such a right, nor should they. What the NPA has argued is that two commercial channels would fail financially, and the public purse would be used to prop them up. Such a position would create unfair and genuinely unfair competition for the press.

Some independent contractors, particularly the smaller ones, have more to fear from a second channel than newspapers. The press is used to competition from television, and used to a precarious living. Television is used to neither.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL POOLE,
22 Castle Green,
Weybridge, Surrey,
March 31.

From Mr Gerald Nethercot
Sir, In the welter of confused thinking which is likely to result from the Annan Committee report one issue of importance may be suggested by the inevitably major discussion regarding the structure of television: that issue is local radio.

Local radio was set up by the BBC in 1967-68 with eight pioneer stations which, although happily autonomous, had a clear objective. This objective was to provide their local communities with an all-round service of programmes with an emphasis on news, topicality, discussion of local issues, and, not least, carefully devised educational output of local interest; in other words to encourage a sense of involvement in these communities. In this, to the surprise of many, they

succeeded. Whatever "organizational fog" Annan may accuse the BBC of, this was quite clear.

Without going into the merits or demerits of commercial intervention in this field of broadcasting, it is left with an impression of "fog" inside the Committee about the function and structure of BBC local radio. To recommend the hiring-off of local stations from their parent organization displays a lack of knowledge of the local scene. There is a two-way traffic in news, and other programmes, in background information and ideas—not to mention technical services—without which local radio stations could not provide a proper service. And the national networks would sorely miss grass roots information. This is the devolution which some of us sought—the "escape from over-Londonization," to quote the late Lord Simon of Wythenshawe. And it has worked admirably.

To suggest, as Annan does, the setting up of a separate local radio authority (especially if financed by commercial interests, with all the problems that would bring) is to lose all sense of realism. I write as one with direct experience in both network and local broadcasting, and, bluntly, looked at the composition of the Committee with astonishment. The Committee lacked sufficient injection of professional knowledge among its members.

The setting up of an independent local radio authority will not in any way improve the quality or the coverage of programme output for local communities. The "back-up" will simply not be there in terms of facilities, whether programme feeding, technical resources or research information. It is, as I said, a matter of logistics which works both ways.

The Annan report presents the local radio advisory councils with the "un-fogged" duty, in the interests of the communities they serve, to oppose this part of Annan tooth and nail. They must, or they will show themselves false to the principles of local radio which they accepted by becoming members of such councils. They must alert local opinion in a way which they can then present strongly to the Government. They must not wait for the White Paper—that would be too late, and by acting now they can influence the policy of the White Paper.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD NETHERCOT, Former Manager, BBC Radio Nottingham, David House, St George's Street, Naxos, Malta, GC, March 25.

Khmer Rouge victory all the more likely. But he rightly sees that as no reason for silence about Cambodia today.

When is Mr Levin going to break his silence about Cambodia yesterday?

YONATHAN MIRSKY,
21 Priory Grove,
Stockwell, SW8,
March 30.

From Dr Terry Gough
Sir, I refer to Bernard Levin's article on the Cambodian problem (March 30), and, like him, find the facts so terrible that we wish they were not true. Working in a refugee camp in Thailand we have first hand accounts of the barbaric acts of the Khmer Rouge, so consistently ignored by the free world.

Even a visitation of Khmer Rouge soldiers on to Thai soil one night in January, to extend the terror they have been inflicting on their own people, was only briefly reported in a few newspapers. The Bangkok Post has published a booklet of this event with illustrations so hideous that I have tried to forget the existence of my own copy. It shows the mutilated bodies of children and their parents, scattered about the fields near their homes.

We fear that although the peoples and governments of the free world may look on, they do not wish to see. If we delay too long, there may be nothing left to see.

Yours faithfully,
TERRY GOUGH,
Hon Secretary,
Refugee Aid Committee, Orphans, 10 Frailey Hill, Woking, Surrey, March 29.

'The Age of Uncertainty'
From Sir Keith Joseph, MP (for Leeds, NE (Conservative))
Sir, Professor Kenneth Galbraith, currently delivering the 13 one-hour lectures in The Age of Uncertainty BBC television series, is a polemicist and propagandist for the view he has held consistently over many years. The BBC, however, is required to retain a balance in matters of political sensitivity and for that reason its choice of lecturer and intellectual guide through the corridors of economic history is totally unsuitable.

Had the BBC set out to ensure strict impartiality it could have invited some respected but more dispassionate figure than Professor Galbraith to give a balanced account of the various interpretations of the subject. Alternatively it could have asked several commentators, exponents of different interpretations, Professor Galbraith among them, to contribute.

Instead the BBC has allowed this long and expensive series to become the vehicle for Professor Galbraith's highly idiosyncratic views and in so doing has given Galbraith perhaps the biggest audience known to any economist in history, quite apart from any financial reward.

For the benefit of those not familiar with political economy it should be stressed that Professor Galbraith's opinions by no means command universal respect among professional economists; they certainly do not represent a consensus among those interested in the subject. Many people, myself included, believe that Galbraith's advocacy of centralized economic decision-making is based on faulty analysis and, if accepted by government, leads necessarily to impoverishment and despotism.

From the Rev. of Limehouse
Sir, Paul Overy, "Hawksmoor's Neglected Churches," The Times, (March 29) describes St Anne's Church, Limehouse, as "tattered and difficult to get into." In May, 1975, he said it was "locked and apparently unloved."

Tattered? Yes. Unloved? No. Difficult to get into? It depends how hard you try. We are open daily, and quite a lot on Sundays, at the times clearly shown outside; experimentally, we have begun to open on Fridays (not April 8 or 15) all day.

Failing all that, a great many individuals and groups still manage to get in, by first phoning 01-987 1502, or taking their chance at the Rectory in Nevell Street.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER IDLE,
Limehouse Rectory,
5 Nevell Street, E14,
March 29.

CAN THE LIBERALS BE RELIED ON?

The Liberals are in some danger of making fools of themselves in their opposition to the Budget proposals to increase the duty on petrol and cars. As the Conservatives and the other smaller parties take the same view, the Government might be defeated on this part of the Budget if the Liberals joined in. That would not bring the Government down, nor would it infringe the letter of the Lib-Lab agreement. As Mr Steel pointed out yesterday, that does not require the Liberals to support every detail of Government policy. The Liberals would simply be providing a splendid example of how to strike a bargain and then not make it work.

Having agreed to sustain the Government in office, they naturally want to influence policy. They are determined not to be taken for granted. They are ready, even eager, to throw their weight around. That is fair enough, but they had better be careful where they do it. What they are objecting to now is not a piece of socialist extremism—one would have to be a very

ardent motorist indeed to confuse that with a preference for getting money out of a higher tax on petrol rather than VAT. They are seeking to stop the Chancellor from pursuing the very strategy that they favour themselves, but by slightly different means. They too want to shift the balance from direct to indirect taxation, but they would like to see the extra burden put on one indirect tax rather than another.

This might be represented as just the kind of minor point on which it is reasonable for Parliament to impose its wishes on the Government without jeopardizing the Chancellor's economic strategy. But in any Budget one detail is often linked with another. So it is with this one. If the Government were defeated on this question, they would have several options. One is to forgo that portion of revenue and to allow an additional £450 million to be added to the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, with all the inflationary consequences. Another is to reduce the proposed cuts in income tax by that amount, which would be contrary to the basic strategy

that both ministers and the Liberals wish to pursue. The third option is to raise the revenue in a different way—reverting to a flat 10 per cent VAT is the Liberal nostrum. But that would entail a larger increase in the cost of living index and complicate negotiations with the unions.

Each of these choices would therefore either change the strategy or introduce a new complication in applying it; and this would be done—not by persuasion, not even in the cut-and-thrust of the inter-party dialogue, but by joining the Government's opponents to defeat it in the House. That sort of conduct would make a coherent strategy impossible. The Liberals should certainly not become Mr Callaghan's sheep; but a parliamentary alliance of this nature cannot work if one party rejects the unpopular parts of a policy or takes the chance to impose the wishes of any special interest in favour. If this is how the Liberals are going to behave they will make the Government's task even harder, and they will look very silly themselves.

THE LOST LEADERS OF THE TREASURY

In their more reflective moments, Treasury men sometimes recall the definition of the senior civil servant attributed to their former colleague, Sir Thomas Padmore: "Permanent politicians" was how he described the breed. When two of the Treasury's top five permanent politicians resign prematurely within a month, it is clearly a matter of moment. Lady Bracknell, had she deigned to take note of civil servants, might have remarked that to lose one permanent secretary might be dismissed as unfortunate, but to lose two looked like carelessness.

Mr Alan Lord's departure for Dunlop sprang from an approach last autumn. Guinness Mahon made their bid for Sir Derek Mitchell in the summer. Both, naturally, have stressed that neither policy difference nor personal animosity precipitated their moves. Sir Derek at fifty-five has had a good run, passing through a gilded sequence of jobs. Mr Lord at forty-seven is a different case. He had the prospect of the succession to Sir Douglas Wass as Head of the Treasury before him, unless a future Conservative Prime Minister or Chancellor objected on the ground that his past performance in guiding the industrial strategy disqualified him from presiding over their new approach.

Nineteen seventy-six has claim to be the annus horribilis, outstripping even 1947, in the postwar history of the Treasury. Both the management of the economy and the degree of ex-

ternal criticism imposed unprecedented strains on its officials. Sir Derek and Mr Lord, both independent-minded heavyweights unlikely to break under pressure and, for that reason, men the public service can ill afford to lose, can claim that their responsibilities for overseas finance and the domestic economy have "bottomed out" with the securing of an IMF loan and a safety net for sterling. That may or may not be true, but the Treasury, the peak of most people's Civil Service career, obviously could no longer match the allure of working elsewhere.

There are additional, more definite reasons why the Treasury will not profit by a new and untried team, at official level, in the short-term. Its structural future is in doubt, with two former Prime Ministers, Sir Harold Wilson and Mr Heath, recommending its dismemberment into a Finance Ministry and a Budget and Manpower Department, and a Commons Select Committee currently pondering the matter. Mrs Thatcher is also suspected of reforming intentions to demonstrate a break with past policy and to suit her ministerial dispositions.

More important still, the prospect of a Conservative Government places a question-mark over the individuals at the top in Great George Street. Whitehall has not failed to notice the hostility felt by the present Conservative leadership towards the Treasury. Since Mr Heath's

U-turn in 1972, the country's central economic department has been required to behave in a dirigiste, interventionist fashion unbecomingly to the declared attitudes of Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph. Sir Derek Mitchell might have been spared a suspicious given his advocacy of greater spending cuts last December. But several of his colleagues are regarded by some senior Tories as having been a little more fervent in their advocacy of incomes policy, industrial strategy and the like, than their traditional political neutrality should have allowed.

The Treasury faces an uncertain future at both the official and ministerial level. The formidable Mr Leo Pliatzky retires in two years' time from enforcing control over public spending. Sir Douglas Wass, only fifty-three but already almost four years in the post, is widely expected to take up his "big offer" outside in the next two or three years. Sir Douglas Allen, head of the Home Civil Service, will have to draw up a new promotion list including such former Treasury fliers as Mr Robert Armstrong at the Home Office, Sir Ian Bancroft at Environment and Mr Peter Baldwin at Transport.

For personnel and political reasons, strengthening the British economy, a precarious business at the best of times, is likely to be made more difficult for a year or two to come. It may suit the politicians and excite Fleet Street, but it cannot be good for the country.

Consumers and the EEC

From Dr William Roberts
Sir, In his letter published today (The Times, March 28) Dr Fragner challenges the ability of organizations like my own to represent the consumer interest. He writes in the context of a recent meeting in Brussels between the Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs and the President of the Council of Agriculture Ministers where I and colleagues from German, French, Dutch and Belgian consumer

organizations, led by the director of the independent and influential Dutch organization, Consumentenbond, put the consumer case.

He criticizes us for claiming to represent all of Europe's 260 million consumers. This is a claim we have never made. All we would claim is that the cause we are championing is the consumer cause. To be more specific, we have asked the Council of Ministers to impose a freeze on the price of these farm products which are in structural surplus. To allow them to be increased, we argued, would stimulate

supply, restrict demand and cause even worse surpluses. It is self-evident that in pressing this case, we are "consumer functionaries," as Dr Fragner unattractively labels them, are speaking for more than themselves. They are putting the case for all who stand to lose from unnecessarily high prices for basic foods—and a pretty fair case it is.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM ROBERTS,
Head of Public Affairs,
14 Buckingham Street, WC2,
March 28.

The Ombudsman must be seen to be on the people's side

On the tenth anniversary of the Ombudsman,

Sir Barnett Cocks argues

that the office should be an independent one

The devolution proposals which purport to strengthen democratic control over government activity in Scotland and Wales suggest a disturbingly casual approach. The Government White Paper on which the proposals are founded speaks in convincing terms of "the existing complaints machinery (the Ombudsman system)" as "an important protection for the citizen". The Government promises that comparable machinery to investigate complaints of maladministration in Scotland and Wales will be established by the devolution Bill. This is a misleading prospectus because, apart from the limited scope of the Health Service Commissioners and the Local Government Commissioners, there is, in fact, no Ombudsman to whom the individual citizen has access.

When the Bill for a Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration was introduced in 1966 by the then Leader of the House of Commons, Mr. Richard Crossman, he disclaimed any idea that the Government was surreptitiously copying the Scandinavian model. There was no question, he said, of bringing into the British constitution "the notion of the Ombudsman".

In Sweden and in other countries which have adopted its system the Ombudsman's duty is to investigate complaints by individuals outside Parliament against unjust or unfair actions by the agents of the state. In this country, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration is, as his title suggests, the servant of Parliament, only entitled to act at the request of a member, and not permitted to make inquiries into maladministration in government departments on his own account. The main control of executive actions by government departments is still provided by parliamentary questions, adjournment debates and committees of inquiry.

There has been no amendment of the parent Act setting up the office of Parliamentary Commissioner—an office which came into operation on

April 1, 1967—and there is nothing yet which can claim to be an effective and general ombudsman system in Britain. Dr. Roy Gregory wrote, in his recent study in depth of the United Kingdom's complaints organization, that "the logic of a Parliamentary Commissioner Scheme requires that MPs and only MPs should know of the Commissioner's functions and existence".

In practice the complaints machinery is even more restricted than the public is led to believe. The Parliamentary Commissioner is responsible solely for complaints referred to him by members of the House of Commons, and not by the often less politically committed members of the Lords.

Which members of the Commons are willing to invoke the services of the Parliamentary Commissioner? Their identities are not revealed, but as some four score members are also ministers in the Government, they can hardly be expected to indict the inefficiency of each other's departments of state. It follows that any grievances of their constituents will not normally be handed to the Parliamentary Commissioner to investigate. In consequence, several hundred thousand voters are deprived of their full democratic rights. These could only be restored by direct access to an Ombudsman, unhindered by the present subordination to members.

In his annual report for 1976, Sir Idwal Pugh revealed that he had advised 154 complainants with *prima facie* valid grievances to ask a member to refer their complaint back to him. Only 52 of these eventually reached him for investigation. What happened to the remainder?

The former Parliamentary Commissioner, Sir Alan Marre, in a report written on the eve of his retirement last year, bravely went so far as to express doubts on

"whether sufficient regard was being paid . . . to the convenience of members of the public". He added: "We have now and in prospect a series of 'Ombudsman' offices to which different methods of access are, or are to be, statutorily specified, and a member of the public with a composite complaint can be faced with considerable procedural problems in arranging for its complete investigation. There is provision for a measure of coordination between some of the Offices of different Commissioners."

He has only lifted a corner of the curtain which hides the bureaucratic picture of strange complexity. There is at present a strong team of Commissioners for various kinds of complaint set up to harass not only government departments but other Commissioners engaged in various executive activities. The origins of the confusion may be found in hasty legislation to which is often added a designedly helpful clause for the protection of the citizen. In this way, much modern bureaucracy, approved by diverse Acts of Parliament, is erected by compartments which might otherwise have been dealt with by a single Ombudsman Office. The process might be described as bumbledom on the loose.

To take an example, the Commissioner for Local Administration in England may be in conflict with the Countryside Commission; the Commissioner for Local Administration for Wales may be jousting against the Forestry Commission while arguing about jurisdiction with the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration. The Parliamentary Commissioner currently representing the offices of Health Service Commissioners for England, Health Service Commissioner for Wales and Health Service Commissioner for Scotland may be liaising with the newly created Racial Equality Commission on the question of coloured doctors.

Health and safety at work are obvious factors leading to complaints by individuals. The Act of 1974 on that subject set up a Commission and an executive which operates at Chesham Place, Paddington, with responsibility for enforcing the provisions of the statute and making new regulations, founded in some cases on complaints of lacunae in the law. At a different location in London—New Oxford Street—the Health Education Council, under a director general, is listening to complaints by individuals concerned with health education. There is also the Medicines Commission in Finsbury Square, which is advising the Department of Health and Social Security on issues of policy under the Medicines Act 1968. Liaison must be maintained by all other Commissioners with all these bodies.

Nationalized industries are exempt from investigation by the Parliamentary Commissioner because each parent Act includes its own complaints machinery for every area, such as the Gas Consumers Council, the Electricity Consumers Councils and the Transport Users Consultative Committees.

In his annual report for 1975, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration gave some significant figures on the misconceptions in the public mind regarding his duties and the legislative restriction on his work. One thousand and sixty-eight written complaints came from individuals, all of whom had to be told that complaints could only be transmitted through members of Parliament. Cases referred by members themselves numbered 928 of which rather more than half (576) were invalid because they were found to be outside the Parliamentary Commissioner's jurisdiction. In his quadruple capacity as Parliamentary Commissioner and

three Health Service Commissioners, he was able to investigate a small number of complaints which fell under two Acts, and save time by issuing a single report. In other cases the Parliamentary Commissioner has attempted to reduce the delays inherent in the present system by liaison with other statutory bodies so that a complainant does not find himself referred back and forth between his member and similar Commissioners concerned with maladministration.

One complaint involved both the actions of a central government department and also the actions of a local authority. Legislation required a report by the Commissioner for Local Administration in Wales as well as a report by the Parliamentary Commissioner. The complainant was seen by officers from both bodies acting jointly, and while separate reports had still to be issued by each Commissioner, there was at least a joint agreement on the facts.

There are now separate Commissioners for Local Administration in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, all four presumably busy with complaints and, hopefully, in close and constant liaison with each other and with the Parliamentary Commissioner in London over questions of jurisdiction and of fact.

These are some of the parts of an elaborate maze covering many separate areas of administration. These areas are "streamlined", in the White Paper's own word, by creating a wide-ranging Ombudsman system in place of the narrow corridor between Parliament and the people uneasily occupied by the Parliamentary Commissioner. The total cost need not be higher than the fragmented machinery of today, but the frustrations of the present diverse agencies for dealing with complaints could be largely removed.

Meanwhile Members of Parliament have to concern themselves

more and more with work which in most cases ought to be within the responsibility of and handled directly by an unfettered Ombudsman. With the rapid spread of higher education since 1945, the educated electorate is a new constitutional factor whose impact on Parliament has not yet been fully appreciated there. In the whole year of 1947, there was a total of only 129 questions to ministers on various aspects of administration, while in the long parliamentary session of 1975-76 there were more than 40,500. To be in order, each question must involve the responsibility of a minister. This is an immense burden on Parliament, involving huge amounts of time, paper and strain on government departments.

former civil servant". Having cast a stone in the direction of Sir Idwal Pugh, the select committee which reviews his work hastened to explain that there was no intention of hitting him—there was "no criticism of his personal qualities or suitability", apart, presumably, from the fact that he had recently retired from a top post in the Civil Service. The Ontario Ombudsman was chosen from outside the government service. He is Mr. Arthur Maloney, QC, one of Canada's most notable criminal lawyers.

The Ontario Ombudsman has a duty to report annually to the legislature, but is otherwise unimpeded in his powers either to investigate complaints or to institute an inquiry himself. The response to his appointment was demonstrated by the opening of 6,000 files of citizens' complaints against maladministration in the first year, and underlined by some members' dismay at the comparison with their own less alert sponsorship of grievances.

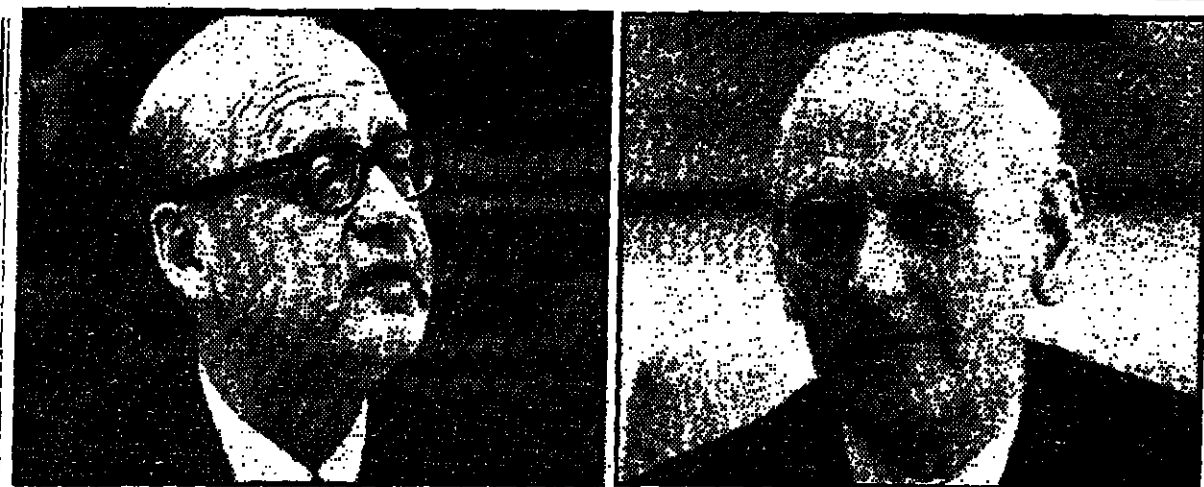
Although the financial cost has not been negligible, the social credit has been impressive. In Toronto, a city of 2,750,000, the languages spoken in the offices of the Ombudsman by his interviewing staff include Chinese, Czech, Dutch, Estonian, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Filipino, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Slovakian, Spanish, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. The suspicious and grievances capable of being dealt with in the native tongues of the complainants are remedied by action or assuaged by explanation instead of being left to fester until some dissident group weaves these polyglot complaints into a pattern of conspiracy and street rioting.

Complainants, however humble, are invited to bring their grievances direct to the office of the Ombudsman. Premises which are easy to find opposite Toronto's City Hall in the Thomson building have been purposely chosen in order to avoid any suggestion of government supervision. The informal atmosphere of the waiting room creates an unofficial setting in which complainants are encouraged to speak their minds and to feel that the Ombudsman is on their side from the start, and not just another Commissioner fronting for the government.

There is no Ombudsman service of this character or magnitude in London, and its merits ought to be studied before the law provides new, expensive, but still inadequate Ombudsman services for Scotland and Wales.

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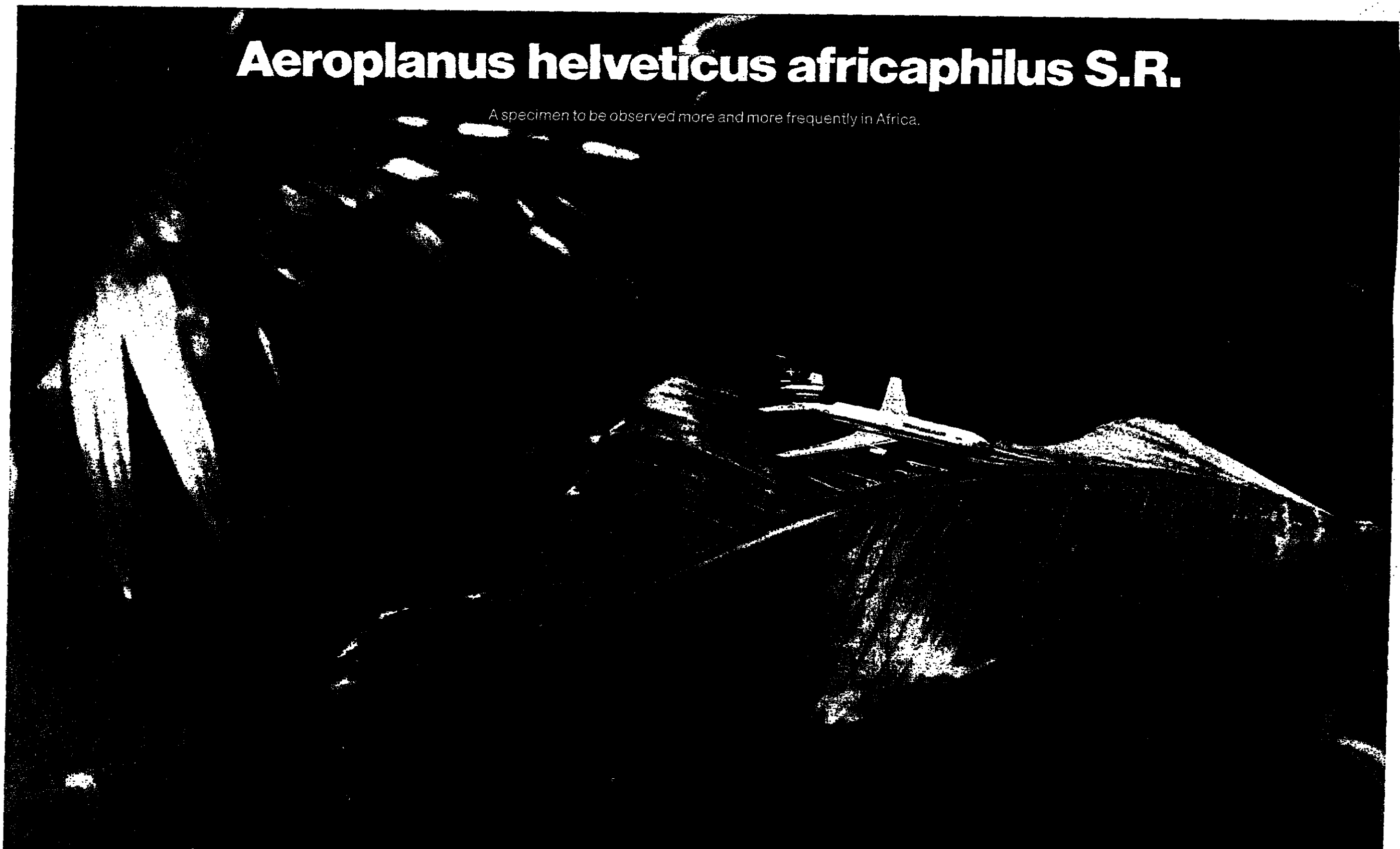
Sir Barnett Cocks was Clerk of the House of Commons, 1962-73.



Sir Alan Marre (left) and Sir Idwal Pugh.

Aeroplanus helveticus africaphilus S.R.

A specimen to be observed more and more frequently in Africa.



The *Aeroplanus helveticus africaphilus* S.R., which even the layman can easily recognize by its silvery wings and handsome red stripes, has been little noticed hitherto in classical entomology. Quite unjustly. The *Africaphilus* S.R. (the letters denote its discoverer, Swissair)

is definitely a useful insect, species of which include the DC-8, DC-9, and DC-10.

Considering its low emission level and quiet movements, it is probably the most useful insect ever to land in Africa. This is apparent particularly from the

infallible instinct with which it flies tirelessly from Switzerland to Abidjan, Accra, Algiers, Cairo, Casablanca, Dakar, Dar es Salaam, Douala, Johannesburg, Khartoum, Kinshasa, Lagos, Libreville, Monrovia, Nairobi, Oran, Tripoli, and Tunis.

Your travel agent or Swissair will gladly give you further information. For instance about the best connecting flights from London and Manchester via Switzerland.

SWISSAIR

Lloyds

Road transport
after
the Budget,
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THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

LAING
MANAGEMENT
IN
CONSTRUCTION

MLR is cut again and Treasury hints at floating rate bond issue soon

By John Whitmore

What is proving a highly active week in financial markets yesterday brought a one-point cut to 9½ per cent in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate, the announcement of a new £800m gilt-edged stock and an indication that the authorities may soon experiment with a floating rate government bond.

The Bank of England's move in setting its minimum lending rate on a Thursday rather than after Friday's Treasury bill tender was prompted for two main reasons.

The first was that with money market rates falling rapidly yesterday, the Treasury wanted to give the financial community a clear indication of its post-Budget thinking ahead of this week's Treasury bill tender.

The second reason was that it needed to set the scene for the later announcement of the £800m gilt-edged stock. This too would normally not have been announced until this afternoon, but on this occasion arrangements had to be moved forward 24 hours to allow adequate time for applications to be submitted and dealings to start before the Easter holidays.

In cutting MLR by one point the Bank made it clear that it was bringing the rate into line with recent market movements

and did not want the general level of interest rates to move much lower for the time being.

On the basis of last night's trading prices, today's Treasury bill tender looks likely to be in line with the new rate for MLR. If this proves to be the case, then the market-related formula for setting MLR will be automatically reactivated. Were the bill rate to drop still further, however, the market-related formula would remain in suspension.

The Bank's wish to see a degree of moderation maintained in the pace of decline in interest rates flows largely from its view that there are a number of potential obstacles to be overcome, not least the negotiations for the next phase of incomes policy.

On the other hand it is clearly pleased at the favourable response to the Budget and is happy to see interest rates somewhat lower to try and curb the embarrassingly large inflows of foreign money into the country.

Meanwhile, with sentiment in the gilt market remaining favorable, the authorities are continuing their policy of launching partly-paid gilt-edged stock.

These are specifically designed to avoid depressing the monetary aggregates too much

in the short term, yet committing investors to providing the finance the Government will need once it has moved into its new financial year.

The new stock, which follows last week's offer of £800m of partly-paid Exchangeable 12½ per cent stock, 1992, is of much shorter maturity. It is Exchangeable 9½ per cent, 1992, which at its issue price of 97½ per cent offers a flat yield of 9.54 per cent and a gross redemption yield of 9.99 per cent.

Only £15 per cent is payable on application—lists close next Wednesday—with calls for £25 per cent falling on May 12 and £57 per cent on July 4.

It was also made clear yesterday in a parliamentary reply that the Treasury has decided in principle to experiment with a floating rate government bond if conditions seem appropriate.

The right to vary the rate generally when investors feel that interest rates are likely to rise and fixed interest stocks are, therefore, unattractive. It will, however, be a number of weeks before the necessary technical details have been agreed with the Stock Exchange and statutory instruments can be laid before Parliament to extend the investment powers of trustee bodies and building societies, whom the authorities believe would be interested.

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NEDO chief urges Parliament link

By Malcolm Brown

A call for a formal link between Parliament and the National Economic Development Office was made last night by Sir Ronald McIntosh, director general of the NEDO.

Sir Ronald, expressing a view which is now gaining support, particularly among industrialists, told a Bow Group meeting in London that what he would most like to see was a decision by the appropriate select committee or subcommittee to maintain a continuing watch over the activities of NEDO and its associated tripartite groups.

"This would presumably involve the committee in taking evidence periodically from the

director general and senior staff of NEDO and from the chairman and perhaps some members of our economic development committees and sector groups."

He said that some people were becoming worried about the way they described as the growth of corporatism. "I understand their concern and I am most anxious that work done by and under the auspices of NEDO should be done openly and should be clearly seen to be within the framework of our normal democratic processes."

A link with Parliament would be welcome to the people from industry who give their time to NEDO, Sir

Ronald said.

"It would increase understanding among MPs of the practical problems involved in achieving industrial revival. It would remove the criticism that, under the present system, the arrangements for tripartite consideration of industry's problems bypass Parliament."

And it could do much, over a period, to establish the greater measure of continuity in official policies towards industry which it is now widely accepted that this country needs.

Earlier Sir Ronald had given a warning that the industrial decline had gone a long way in the United Kingdom and would take unremitting effort

"applied over a period covering the normal lifetime of at least three Parliaments" to reverse.

Many people had not yet understood the true extent of the United Kingdom's loss of competitiveness over the last 20 years.

"It is not simply that we have fallen behind the most successful industrial countries in performance; the speed of our advance is now so great that the question will soon arise whether we can ever hope to regain their league at all. Certainly we shall not do so unless we apply our minds to the problem much more systematically and continuously than we have done so far."

IBM test for unions at workers' ballot box

More than 13,000 employees yesterday took part in a ballot which will determine whether IBM United Kingdom can withstand the storm of egalitarian legislation and remain a bastion of non-unionized labour within Britain.

The ballot is the outcome of a battle which has been waged between IBM's management and four trade unions since the middle of last year when the Association of Scientific, Technical and Administrative Staffs applied to represent the 2,000 workers at the company's Greenock plant in Scotland.

Since then, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the Technical Administrative and Supervisory Section (TASS) and the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union-Electrical Engineering Staffs Association (EETPU-EEESA) have also claimed an interest in being represented within the company.

All made their pitch under the provisions of the Employment Protection Act which allows a union seeking to become the bargaining agent for a company's employees to apply to the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service for the right.

Yesterday's ballot was organized by ACAS. It formulated a five-point questionnaire after much hard bargaining between representatives of the company and the unions.

The questions have caused acrimony between the unions and the company. Fundamentally, the question centres on whether or not IBM employees would be better served in terms of salary and conditions if they had a union to represent them.

The unions maintain that the employees would not enjoy their standard of remuneration, and conditions unless the company had been forced to recognize yardsticks established at companies where unions were active.

The company, however, maintains that its pay scale and conditions are "significantly higher" than most unionized companies in the United Kingdom.

In addition, the company believes that its record of no strikes, no lays offs and full employment during its 25 years in Britain shows no need for such representation.

For historical reasons, the company's employees are more likely to vote for union representation than their colleagues in other parts of the organization.

It is not yet clear whether the Greenock result will be considered separately or not. Yesterday a spokesman for ACAS said it would take "some weeks" to study the results of the questionnaires, and only then would the service make its recommendations.

Tim Jones

Curbs on Far East clothing imports

By Peter Hill

New curbs on imports of low cost clothing from the Far East were announced by the Government yesterday. This move by the Department of Trade is the latest in a series of measures taken to protect the United Kingdom textile industry from imports being made into the domestic market by low cost foreign suppliers of clothing.

This year, imports of men's and boys' jackets and blazers from Macao are to be limited to 400,000 pieces. Imports of women's, girls' and infants' blouses and shirt blouses from the same source will be limited to one million pieces.

The restriction follows a sharp rise in both products over the past two years. Imports of men's jackets and blazers from Macao rose from 96,000 pieces in 1975 to 382,000 last year while the women's wear imports increased from 155,000 to 996,000 over the same period.

News of the announcement came as the British textile industry reaffirmed its call for a fundamental renegotiation of

the Gatt Multi Fibre Arrangement.

The talks on the future of the MFA, due to begin later this month (April) in Geneva with the EEC still divided, although there are signs that the United States may be prepared to lend its support to the majority of Community countries who want a revision of its terms.

Dr Brian Smith, the new president of the British Textile Confederation, said yesterday that more jobs would be in jeopardy unless there were revisions.

Over the past two years 100,000 jobs disappeared. If present trends in imports continued, the European textile industry could lose 1.6 million jobs by 1985.

Dr Smith told the BTC's annual luncheon in London that it was important that the United Kingdom achieved a balanced growth in imports and that import market shares should be related to a reasonable base price.

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TASS wins inter-union status battle

By Derek Harris

The TUC has come down on the side of the Technical Administrative and Supervisory Section (TASS) of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in the first round of an inter-union battle over recruitment of professional engineers.

It is being seen as a serious setback for the Electrical Power Engineers' Association (EPEA), which has been pursuing an expansionist policy for new members.

But Mr John Lyons, EPEA's general secretary, last night made clear that it would not deflect association policy to widen its membership from its widest base of the electricity supply industry into the private sector.

He said: "It is a disappointing decision. But we always knew we could not expect to win every case. There are many more cases still to come."

The decision by a TUC disputes committee concerned recruitment of professional engineers at the GEC Reactor Equipment complex at Whetstone, Leicestershire. Mr Ken Gill, TASS's general secretary, said the British Electricity agreement, covering non-posing for members between TUC-affiliated unions.

TASS accused EPEA of creating exceptional difficulties for recruiting TASS engineers. This, the committee upheld and EPEA has been asked to cease recruitment.

It has also been asked to advise its Whetstone members already recruited to transfer to TASS. But even if it does this TASS will not necessarily gain the engineers' membership because, unlike EPEA, TASS has not been recommended as a suitable trade union by the engineers' own professional body, the Council of Engineering Institutions.

Other sites where the two unions are clashing includes three Lucas Aerospace factories at Birmingham. Another possible focus is a GEC factory at Stafford.

Inquiry backed: "Very strong" support for a full Government inquiry into the engineering profession came last night from the Association of Scientific, Technical and Administrative Staffs (ASTAS).

The TUC already called for an inquiry, and a decision is expected soon from Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, on whether to hold it.

British Steel acquires stockholder

British Steel Corporation has further increased its stake in stockholding with the acquisition of subsidiary, Bennie Steel Sheet.

A Scottish company, it employs 50 people and has a turnover of £2m. It is a flat rolled steel sheet processor and stockholder. The price paid was not disclosed.

The corporation said Bennie Steel Sheet would become part of Lye Spencer Steel Services, the flat rolled products division of British Steel Service Centres, the BSC's stockholding group.

The corporation's growing involvement on the stockholding side has been a source of anxiety among other stockholders, although its share of the total United Kingdom market will be limited to 15 per cent, with the approval of the Government and the EEC.

BSC established its service centres operation in 1974 and has since made a number of acquisitions.

Iran bid for BP stake less likely

By Roger Vielvoe

Energy Correspondent

The Shah of Iran and Veba, the German oil and chemical company, are unlikely to buy a stake in British Petroleum after the Bank of England acquired the British shareholding in BP in 1974.

It will, however, be a number of weeks before the necessary technical details have been agreed with the Stock Exchange and statutory instruments can be laid before Parliament to extend the investment powers of trustee bodies and building societies, whom the authorities believe would be interested.

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Over 3 cwt of 16th issue National Savings Certificates were weighed in at the Savings Certificate Office in Durham yesterday, representing about £14m of the certificates which have been a runaway best seller for the Department

of National Savings. Introduced on December 13 the issue closed yesterday and total sales could reach £850m, making it the most successful issue of National Savings Certificates.

Share prices fade with bout of profit-taking

By Our Financial Staff

Shares were unable to recover from an early bout of profit-taking on the stock market in London yesterday, and Wednesday's gains were lost.

The FT ordinary share index closed 7.8 lower at 419.4, with the 1 per cent cut in MLR, largely discounted, bringing only a minimal response. This disappointing session was despite a strong company news list yesterday.

Among them, Lucas Industries, the vehicle and aircraft equipment group, increased profits by 65 per cent to £34.7m in the six months to January 31 on a rise in sales from £327m to £418m.

Lucas experienced particularly strong demand in Europe, and diesel injection sales started to benefit from the investment programme. Mr Bernard Scott, the chairman, said he expected the group's improved performance to be maintained.

From the foods sector, Cadbury Schweppes produced 1976 profit figures well ahead of most expectations at £46.4m pre-tax as against £38.6m in 1975. An 18 per cent improvement in overall sales reflected a recovery in volume in confectionery in the United Kingdom. A strong second-half performance in Australia was another contributory factor.

The shares improved by 1½p to 45½p.

London Brick was hit by the effects of the unusually wet and protracted winter months. Profits at £10.5m pre-tax fell into the lower range of stock market estimates. Disappointment with the figures, compounded by the fact that much of the profit came from higher investment income, left the shares 2½p lower at 49p.

Profits of Bowater, the paper, pulp and packaging group, climbed from £52.9m to £78.3m last year. Of this £38.4m was the result of the decline in the value of the pound, but the group has shown a particularly strong revival in the United Kingdom, where profits rose from £4.8m to £21.2m.

Excluding exchange rate adjustments, profits from Bowater's dominant North American interests were slightly down.

Meanwhile, Dalzety, the international merchant, announced a one-for-four rights issue to raise £11.5m, chiefly to fund further investment in its United Kingdom operations.

Pitched at 187½—a discount of just under 22 per cent—the offer was accompanied with a promise to raise full-year dividends by 25 per cent. The shares responded with a rise of 2½p to 24½p.

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Financial News, page 22

Low demand worrying to Herbert

By Our Financial Staff

Alfred Herbert, the machine tool manufacturer owned by the National Enterprise Board, made pre-tax profits of £585,000 last year against a loss of £13.4m in the previous 14 months.

The result, however, has been artificially inflated by the release of £373,000 of provisions made in the previous accounts and an exceptional profit of £721,000 after a change in stock and work-in-progress valuations. On a strict basis, then, Herbert is still in deficit.

A fairer measure of financial performance, Mr John Buckley, the chairman, believes, would be to compare profits before tax, interest and exceptional items of £1.46m with the equivalent loss of £5.71m for the earlier 14 months period.

Mr Buckley said he sincerely believed that the company could generate immediate cash requirements but he was concerned in the short-term because of the low level of machine tool demand. He said he wished that there was more evidence that the group would get a "flood of orders".

Sales for the two financial periods were roughly static at just over £49m which, annualising earlier turnover, shows a gain which is credited entirely to the effects of inflation. Price increases in many markets, nonetheless, were impossible to obtain because of tight competitive conditions. Taking out cutting tools, which are concentrated in the United Kingdom, around 50 per cent of Herbert's output is exported.

Stock Exchange given go ahead to Talisman

The Stock Exchange has been given the go-ahead by its members to develop Talisman, the new computerized settlement system. As expected a proxy vote showed that members were three-to-one in favour of the scheme. Actual votes cast were 2,315 in favour; 837 against.

Levy on Spanish steel

Curbs on imports of light steel sections from Spain have been imposed by the Government.

Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, announced yesterday that a provisional anti-dumping duty of £31.50 a tonne is being imposed on the Spanish steel sections from today.

At the beginning of February the Government announced a full anti-dumping duty on imports into the country, and the Department of Trade approached the Spanish government to try to secure a voluntary agreement. Talks are continuing, but be-

cause of the high level of imports from Spain in February, the Government has decided to impose the duty forth with.

Last night the British Independent Steel Producers' Association, which has been strongly campaigning for a tougher approach towards low-cost imports, welcomed Mr Dell's announcement. The action, it said, matched similar measures taken against imports of stainless steel bars from Spain last September.

It is expected that the Government will shortly announce new measures against steel imports from other sources.

Lloyds Bank Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of Lloyds Bank Limited was held on 31 March 1977 at the Head Office, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

Sir Eric Faulkner, MBE, the Chairman, presided.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting and Mr J.B. Sewell read the report of the auditors. The Report of the Directors and the Accounts were received and adopted.

The Chairman paid tribute to the services of Mr W.F. Cartwright LLD, DL, Mr E.O.L. Vaughan and Mr C.R. Vincent who did not seek re-election. The other retiring directors were re-elected.

A special resolution as set out in the notice of meeting was passed to alter the Articles of Association of the Company.



Lloyds Bank

Hawker joins bidding for Morris

By Ray Maugham

Hawker Siddeley, the aircraft and engineering group, emerged yesterday as a counter-bidder for crane maker, Herbert Morris.

In terms of 24½p in cash, value Morris at £8.3m and therefore the third and latest offer from Babcock & Wilcox by 40p per share. Hawker's terms have been accepted by the Morris board.

Two other potential bidders are thought to be in the wings at present. One is a substantial British company whose recent interest has been firm.

Babcock, for its own part, is still convinced of the commercial benefits of its offer made after the Monopolies Commission had given the go-ahead and withdrawn the offer from the price of 120p. It remains hope-

ful that it will realize the benefits of putting Morris's products through its expanding United States distribution network.

Its offer closes on April 30 next and under Takeover Panel rules, could be extended as long as the Hawker offer remains open.

But Babcock made it clear yesterday that, although it will not hurry the decision on the future of its 39.2 per cent Morris stake, a new move must be considered within the next month.

Morris is forecasting a profit of £3.1m against £2.9m for the year to end-October next for fully taxed earnings of 43p per share. Gross total dividend of 30.77p per share has already been predicted. Renter's last was at 173.12 (previous 173.29).

as the nucleus for the further development of related activities both in the United Kingdom and overseas. If successful it will be buying land and buildings which have recently been valued at a surplus of over £3m to book value net of a notional tax charge.

The new bidder has long been seen as a predator within the engineering sector. Nationalization yesterday on April 29 will take out aircraft earnings of £6.8m from the below the line total of £22m in the latest half yearly figures.

Hawker's first priority in replacing these earnings, Mr Alex Laurence, the finance director, said yesterday, is to its continuing businesses in electrical and mechanical engineering "which will inevitably involve acquisitions."

How the markets moved

The Times index: 172.24-2.20
The FT index: 419.4-7.8

Rises

APV Hldgs 30p to 37½p
Gallenkamp 30p to 27½p
Howard Mich 8p to 10½p
Latham J 10p to 15½p

Falls

Arava Group 1½p to 24p
Brit Enkalon 1½p to 14p
Carless Cape 2p to 34p
EAS 2p to 20½p
Estates House 1½p to 26½p
Fisons 1½p to 34½p
GEC 5p to 35p
KCN 7p to 37½p
Kitchin Taylor 6p to 18p

Equities fell on profit taking. Gilt-edged securities were narrowly mixed. Dollar premium 112.50 per cent (effective rate 40.417 per cent). Gold was \$1 an ounce down at \$148.

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THE POUND

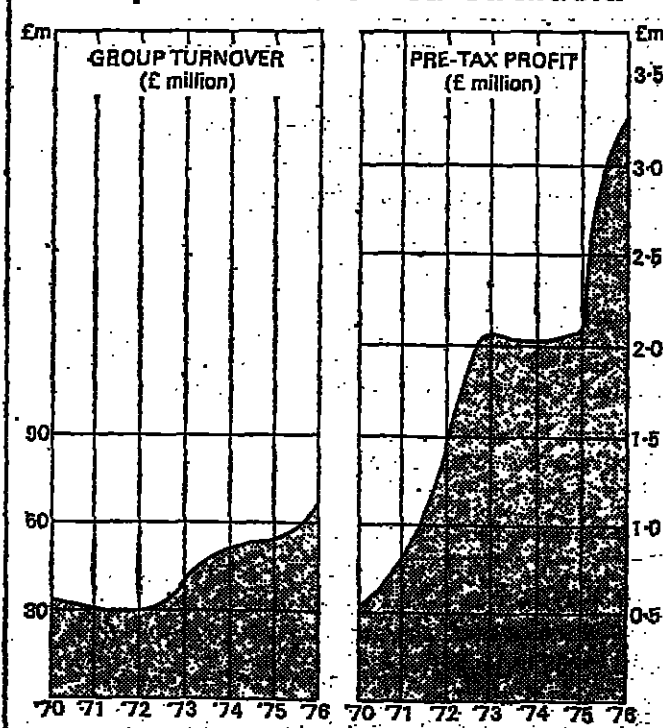
	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.61	1.56
Austria Sch	30.50	30.50
Belgium Fr	66.00	66.00
Canada \$	1.86	1.81
Denmark Kr	10.38	9.98
Finland Mk	6.75	6.59
France Fr	8.76	8.44
Germany Dm	4.27	4.05
Greece Dr	64.75	61.75
Hongkong \$	8.20	7.75
Italy L	1535.00	1480.00
Japan Yu	500.00	475.00
Netherlands Gld	4.45	4.32
Norway Kr	9.26	8.90
Portugal Esc	68.25	64.25
Spain Pes	131.50	127.50
Sweden Kr	7.50	7.15
Switzerland Fr	4.94	4.32
Yugoslavia Dnr	34.25	32.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied regularly by Banknote Bank. Figures are for the pound sterling only to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency markets.

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Record Profits 56% up on last year

Last 6 years turnover has doubled and profits have increased sixfold



The Bath & Portland Group

Copies of the Report and Accounts for 1976/77 can be obtained from the Secretary, The Bath & Portland Group Limited, 20 Marygate Street, Bath, BA1 1LX.

American oil affiliates expected to boost investment in UK by 19pc

From Frank Vogl
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, March 31

British-based affiliates of American companies plan to increase their capital expenditures by about 10 per cent.

This year to \$4,400m, against an estimated 8 per cent rise totalling \$4,000m in 1976.

According to a Department of Commerce survey conducted in December capital spending by majority-owned foreign subsidiaries of United States corporations will be stepped up 12 per cent to \$2,600m, compared with a decline of 4 per cent last year.

Oil company affiliates are again likely to be the largest capital spenders abroad, and much of their United Kingdom expenditure will be by these concerns.

The survey shows that oil companies intend to raise capital spending by 19 per cent to

11,100m, after a 2 per cent gain last year. The Commerce Department said the higher spending is largely accounted for by companies involved in oil production in the Middle East and the North Sea.

A dramatic change in investment planning seems to have taken place among United States affiliates in Britain in the second half of 1976. This possibly indicates increasing confidence in the British economic outlook on the part of their leading executives, as well as some substantial miscalculations on their part on the speed with which they could realize their capital spending intentions.

Planned expenditure in the United Kingdom by these companies will increase by 10 per cent. However, a Department survey conducted last June showed that these same companies expected their capital outlays to drop 3 per

cent below the 1976 level. The June survey also put planned 1976 capital outlays as rising by 16 per cent, while the December survey showed that this figure had actually been halved.

The 10 per cent planned spending increase compares with actual percentage rises by United States affiliates in Britain of 37 per cent in 1975; 14 per cent in 1974 and 43 per cent in 1973.

The December survey also indicated that United States affiliates primarily involved in distribution and refining intend to boost capital expenditures in France and Japan, while cutting spending levels in West Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Bahamas.

Non-oil manufacturing foreign affiliates plan to raise their spending by 11 per cent to \$1,100m after recording a 5 per cent fall in 1976 compared to the 1975 level.

Banks lending less to developing nations

By David Blake
Economics Correspondent

As negotiations proceed for some new source of funds for the International Monetary Fund, commercial bank lending to developing countries has fallen sharply. According to preliminary estimates by Morgan Guaranty Trust of New York in its latest issue of the authoritative *World Financial Markets*, total non-Opec developing country borrowing in the first quarter was down by \$2,100m to \$11,500m.

Some of the drop was explained by an improving balance of payments position caused by higher commodity prices. It is estimated that during the current year the balance of payments deficits of the 12 countries which have been the biggest borrowers, will drop some \$2,000m to \$11,000m.

But there is also definite indications of a switch in the lending policies of banks which is beginning to force the

developing countries to look more to official sources of finance, and less towards the commercial markets.

There has been considerable concern, particularly in the United States, about the growing role of developing country debts in bank balance sheets.

It seems to be generally accepted that commercial bank lending will have to play a dominant role in the coming year in financing the problems caused to countries by the deficits which are associated with the surpluses of oil countries and some western nations such as Germany.

However, bankers are clearly trying to bring in the IMF to a more positive role. If only because it has the power to enforce conditions on countries. Thus, ensuring that a country gets the IMF seal of approval can be the first step towards making that country a good risk in the Euromarkets.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The most effective use of gas and electricity and a fallacious view

From Mr. Terry Goddard

Sir, Peter Reynolds (March 29) can be assured the most effective use of energy is of concern to the proponents of electricity. We share also his belief in the importance of the truth.

Unfortunately his entire argument against the use of electricity for domestic heating rests on a fallacy: hardly any power stations burn natural gas. Almost all burn the lowest grade of coal which would otherwise be building into huge tips. Natural gas is used only by the few stations with the additional facilities to burn it when demand for natural gas is slack.

Over 80 per cent of our homes use electricity for some form of heating. To curtail its availability as Mr Reynolds advocates would be to ignore what most people want.

Yours faithfully,
TERRY GODDARD,
Chairman,
The Electric Heating Bureau,
25 North Row,
London W1R 2BY.
March 29.

mainly from materials which (a) have no other real commercial outlet and (b) would not be converted into energy at all if not used in power stations. Some 70 per cent of United Kingdom's electricity is produced from low-grade coal, 10 per cent from oil residue, 12 per cent from nuclear fuels and the rest from hydro.

That the coal has no alternative outlet may be witnessed by the government's last week, buying the South of Scotland Electricity Board a subsidy of £35m to encourage them to use this poor coal. Mr Reynolds should ask his local miners where they would be without the electricity supply industry. Incidentally, there is a very useful by-product of burning this high ash content coal in power stations in the form of the various lightweight aggregates and insulating building blocks that are made from the ash.

The debate is about whether we should use a valuable material like gas in boilers at all. And, most certainly, whether we should allow misleading claims about its relative efficiency to cause a decline of our electrical power industry, particularly bearing in mind the admitted short finite life of these gas supplies. There is no question at all but that, in 10 or 15 years, a very substantial new capital programme will be required to convert back from gas to electricity and if our power industry is run down now, we will be faced with the crippling costs of importing, at a time when the whole world will be competing for the same service.

Yours faithfully,
A. E. SCRIVEN,
8 St Mary's Walk,
Kennington,
London, SE11.
March 29.

Tax and the building industry

From Mr. C. A. Fairbairn

Sir, Following Mr. A. Lewis's comments on the problems in the construction industry created by the advent of the new tax certification system (March 28) may I suggest the following?

As deduction of tax by the contractor absolves the subcontractor of further responsibility for the remission of that sum to the Inland Revenue, then bona fide evidence of that deduction (Form SC60) submitted in lieu of payments made to the Inland Revenue in respect of PAYE and NIC remittances should prove satisfactory to the inspectorate.

This was our contingency plan had we not received our certificate by the due date, and should enable those not so fortunate to escape the disastrous consequences of having to finance a double taxation situation.

Perhaps the Inland Revenue may care to give a ruling. Yours faithfully,
C. A. FAIRBAIRN,
Managing Director,
Mersey-side Metal Sprayers Limited,
22 St John's Road,
Banc, Liverpool L20 8BH.

Back-dated television licences

From Mrs S. A. Palmer

Sir, Can someone tell me why a similar system of licence renewal cannot be adopted for television to that which currently operates for driving licences? I note that my driving licence expires at midnight on a specific date.

Your correspondent, S. C. Cole (March 25) was fortunate indeed in being allowed by the national Television Licence Records Office in Bristol to make payment in advance for a colour licence expiring on March 31.

My licence, bought on March 26 for my new television—not a replacement—expires on February 28 1978. If I were allowed to make advance payment to gain the advantage enjoyed by S. C. Cole, via avoidance of probable licence fee increase in the budgetary snafu, I would be breaking the law till April 1.

What redress have I for the 26 days' fine imposed on me by the Post Office? Yours faithfully,
SHEILA A. PALMER,
Rising Sun,
Sharnham,
Sewards,
Kent TN14 7SD.
March 26.

OECD says corporation broke code

Paris, March 31.—A number of multinational corporations are accused of ignoring the code of conduct guidelines agreed last June by members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The accusations were put forward by representatives of the Trade Union Advisory Committee of the OECD at a meeting of the organization's committee for international investment and multinational enterprises.

Although TUAC presented a list of 15 "cases of violation" of the guidelines, what is said to be a test case involves a Belgian unit of Badger, an American company, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Raytheon Corporation.

Badger-Belgium set up in Antwerp in 1965, closed down in January and dismissed its 250 workers without severance pay, required under Belgian law, Mr Henry Bernard, TUAC secretary-general, said.

He added that the parent company refused to pay the Belgian government had taken up the matter with Washington. "The United States administration has shown plenty of goodwill, but it is subjected to strong pressure by multinational corporations", he said.

The TUAC has also called for the setting up of inter-ministerial administrative units "especially responsible for surveillance of the application of the guidelines".

Japan car makers turn to Europe

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Japanese car makers could be exporting a million cars to Western Europe within five years. Marketing is expected to be particularly aggressive in West Germany, France and Italy where Japanese import penetration is now very small.

According to a study* published yesterday, the Japanese are likely to concentrate their future sales efforts in Western Europe because of limited growth prospects in the north American market which has recently taken about 45 per cent of all Japanese passenger car exports.

Babcock wins £70m Saudi water contract

Ames Crosta Babcock, a company in the Babcock and Wilcox Group's water engineering division, has won a £70m contract for the turnkey building of a major treatment plant to supply drinking water to Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia.

The company thinks it is the highest value contract yet awarded for such a project, and the reverse osmosis plant would be one of the world's largest.

The order covers the entire civil, mechanical and electrical work, including a diesel power generating station, and is expected to take over two years to build.

Satellites may link N Sea rigs

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

Communications for offshore platforms, rigs and support vessels in the North Sea in the 1980s could be provided by two satellites which are planned by the European Space Agency, according to a detailed study which has just been completed for the agency.

Results of the study were presented to the agency and other organizations in London yesterday by Marconi Communications Systems. The two satellites are the European Communication Satellite (ECS) and the Maritime Orbital Test Satellite (MOTS).

Main use of the ECS will be to relay television programmes via large earth terminals. MOTS is intended for shipping communications.

The problems of adapting these planned designs to the requirements of offshore communications—including the mixed use of the ECS by users of both large and small terminals, and the shared use of MOTS by both ships and rigs—were examined.

Earlier studies had established that there was no fundamental technical obstacle to using satellites of the ECS and MOTS type to provide communications for the offshore energy units in the European sea areas. This latest study has sought to give a detailed technical definition of how this adaptation should be done.

A small terminal able to communicate from offshore platforms via satellite would cost about £765,000 at current prices, Marconi estimates.

Italy's payments gap widens to £1,586m

From Patricia Clough
Rome, March 31

Italy had a balance of payments deficit of 2,380,000 lire (about £1,586m) for 1976, according to the basis of transactions, according to a government report approved by the cabinet today.

The gross domestic product increased by 5.7 per cent, compared with 5.7 per cent in previous years. Wages rose by 22.7 per cent in monetary terms, and by 4.4 per cent in value of buying power.

The report, shortly to be presented to Parliament, said the lira had devalued on an average of 17 per cent during the year. Unemployment had increased although the summary of the report available to the press did not include the figures.

The 2,380,000 lire payments deficit compared with 361,400m lire for the previous year.

Recent Bank of Italy figures calculated on a cash basis put the 1976 deficit at 1,640,000m lire. The difference between the two figures is accounted for by delays in payments by importers to avoid the 10 per cent mandatory deposit and the recently abolished tax on foreign exchange purchases.

The Senate today approved the governments decree law to reduce increases in labour costs with the changes made under yesterday's compromise with the unions. The compromise cleared the way for a £530m IMF loan.

The decree now goes to the Chamber of Deputies for approval before its expiry date on April 8.

Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Prime Minister, told the Senate last night before the approval that without credit "we would plunge into collective bankruptcy".

It was unthinkable that Italy should go further into debt to meet its current needs, he explained. Credit was needed to permit Italy to pay its international debts which "have gone over the danger line"—Reuter.

Progress on participation at Ferranti

By Malcolm Brown

The trade unions are making some progress towards a participation agreement with Ferranti, the state-controlled electrical and electronics group.

Following months of negotiations, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has told its members that the company has conceded that the agreement should cover several key areas. These include: investment, including total expenditure, timing and location; imports and exports; company pricing policy; and government grants and loans.

Ferranti has been a prime candidate for a participation agreement since the Government rescued the group two years ago from a major cash crisis. The National Enterprise Board now holds 50 per cent of the voting shares and 100 per cent of the non-voting.

The AUEW says that the latest replies from Ferranti indicate that agreement is possible for a less management-orientated pact than had been discussed.

Lucas anger at Leyland parts move

By Clifford Webb

A delegation of shop stewards representing 30,000 workers employed in Lucas motor component factories, have protested to the West Midlands County Council over British Leyland plans to manufacture more of its own parts through the expansion and modernization of its SU-Butec group of component companies.

The Lucas men are particularly annoyed because they believe the state-controlled car group is unfairly using taxpayers' money to threaten their jobs. So concerned is Leyland about the opposition that Mr Ron Hancock, managing director of SU-Butec, has asked county council chiefs to explain his plans in detail.

A full report of both sets of talks will be considered at next Monday's meeting of the county's employment, commerce and industry committee.

One of the issues raised by shop stewards was a proposed deal with the American-French Motorola group. Mr Hancock wants to manufacture a Motorola alternator under licence for use in Leyland commercial vehicles and some specialist cars. A Motorola alternator is already fitted to the 12-cylinder Jaguar XJS-Leyland flagship.

It is an attempt to counter the Motorola deal, Lucas has offered a similar licensing arrangement for one of its alternators.

It is understood that Mr Hancock has told the county council that unless the seven companies who make up SU-Butec are modernized quickly they will become progressively uneconomic to operate and some would be in danger of closure.

He said suppliers who met Leyland's requirements on quality and prices had nothing to fear, but the few who consistently fell short would be replaced by alternative sources, including in-house manufacture by Leyland.

Mr Therm at the old price

From Mr. W. J. Jeffries

Sir, Mr. Winkles (Business Letters, March 27) is mistaken in thinking that the price rise for gas will be retrospective.

The new tariffs take effect in respect of gas consumed from the first meter reading on or after April 1. This means that until the meter is read on or after April 1 gas will be charged at the old rate.

Yours faithfully,
WILFRED BURNSTONE,
Secretary,
British Gas Corporation,
39 Bryanston Street,
Marble Arch,
London W1A 2AZ.
March 28.

From Mr. K. S. Jeffries

Sir, You reported today (March 29) that Mr. Benn, in answering questions on the price of gas, said that the increase over the last three years had been 57 per cent.

In my quarterly account dated March 5, 1974, the price, on the "Gold Star" tariff, was 6.825p per therm. In the corresponding account for March 7 this year the price was 14.1p, an increase of 107 per cent in three years. A further 10 per cent on current prices will open the gap to 127 per cent.

Yours truly,
K. S. JEFFRIES,
12 Burdon Lane,
Cheam, Surrey SM2 7PT.

SIRDAR Interim Financial Statement

The group results for the 28 weeks to the 14th January 1977 (unaudited) are compared below with those of the corresponding period to 9th January 1976 and the audited results for the year ended 30th June 1976.

	28 weeks to 14.1.77	Year to 9.1.76	Year to 30.6.76
Group Profit before taxation	£507,000	£504,000	£942,000
Less: Taxation (U.K. estimated at 52%)	£264,000	£252,000	£453,000
	£243,000	£252,000	£489,000

The directors have declared a net interim dividend on the ordinary shares of 1.15p per share (1976: 1.04p per share) payable on the 19th May 1977 to all ordinary shareholders on the register of members at the close of business on the 25th April 1977.

Turnover has increased both in value and in the volume of business. Although rising wool prices continued to threaten margins the results of trading in Sirdar yarns have been most satisfactory. Sales of Hatfield yarns however were less satisfactory in the early season and the disappointing results are reflected in the group profit for the half-year.

The current phase of plant replacement is almost complete. Hatfield is now operating more profitably and given a continuation of the present high level of sales, group profit for the second half year is expected to improve.

SIRDAR LIMITED
P.O. Box 31, Alverthorpe, Wakefield, WF2 9ND, Yorkshire.

MK Refrigeration Limited Group results in brief:

	1976 £'000	1975 £'000
Group Turnover	10,426	7,939
Home	2,029	1,810
Export		
Profit before taxation and extraordinary item	2,012	1,359
Percentage to turnover	16.1%	13.9%
Earnings per 10p Share	13.68p	9.27p
Dividend per 10p Share	2.7178p	2.5087p
Assets Employed	£7,081m	£5,571m
Return on assets employed	28.4%	24.4%

Highlights of the Chairman's Statement

The profit for the year rose by 48% over 1975 due to increased sales volume and planned cost savings through rationalisation of group activities. The board has decided to acquire additional manufacturing capacity to meet the record demand for the group's products and services. The future is viewed with optimism.

The Group manufactures bar cooling equipment, ice makers, Non-Drip spirit measures, beer dispensing equipment, cold rooms, contract furniture, air handling equipment and designs and installs commercial refrigeration and air conditioning equipment.

The Annual General Meeting to be held on 1st April at the Abercorn Rooms, Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, London EC2. Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, 15 Moorfield Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 0HG.

Lucas anger at Leyland parts move

By Clifford Webb

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He said suppliers who met Leyland's requirements on quality and prices had nothing to fear, but the few who consistently fell short would be replaced by alternative sources, including in-house manufacture by Leyland.

Humber-side yards get Indonesian orders

Export orders for tugs and barges, part of a £4m contract for Indonesia, have been won by United Kingdom shipbuilding companies. The Hull-based Yorkshire Dry Dock Co. is to build 10 bunkering barges for a sailing vessel project in Indonesia which will provide the yard with work for a year.

Another Humber-side company, Richard Dunston with yards at Thorne and Hessel, near Hull, is to build five tugs for the same project.

The deal was won by Associated British Marine Toolmakers

Nube petition calls for Lloyds profit-sharing

A 25,000-name petition calling for a profit-sharing scheme in Lloyds Bank was yesterday handed to management by Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of the National Union of Bank Employees.

Mr Mills said the petition was a clear indication of the strength of feeling among staff at Lloyds and Lewis's Bank, a wholly owned in-store subsidiary. Profit-sharing schemes were already operated by Barclays, National Westminster and Williams and Glyn's. Midland also planned to introduce a scheme.

Nube is anxious to establish the timescale of implementing any profit-sharing by Lloyds and raised the possibility of calling a special shareholders' meeting to approve any plans rather than wait for a regular meeting.

Lloyds has engaged consultants to consider ideas and says it hopes that proposals will emerge which can be recommended to shareholders.

New Massey discord

Three weeks after the end of Massey Ferguson's longest strike the Coventry plant is threatened by workers refusing

to meet a 48 tractor-a-shift target—which caused the original A. Massey company spokesman to say yesterday that because of the cab assembly men's refusal management had started talks with their union, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

CBI pensions plan

More than 50,000 small companies will be able to offer improved pensions to their employees from the introduction today of a new centralised pension scheme for CBI members. It replaces the original scheme created to meet the last Conservative Government's pensions legislation. The scheme has been drawn up in cooperation with consultants Sedgwick Forbes, Mott MacDonald and underwritten by Equity & Law Life.

US talks for Mr Benn

Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy will fly to the United States on Sunday for four days of talks with members of the Carter administration. He will see Dr James Schlesinger, Secretary for Energy; designate Mr Richard Coper, Under-Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs at the State Department, and Mr Jack O'Leary, the Federal Energy Administrator.

Cold weather lifts consumption of energy 7pc

By Roger Vielvoe
Energy Correspondent

Cold weather in November, December and January boosted energy consumption 7 per cent compared with the same period of 1975/76, according to *Energy Trends*, published yesterday.

Coal consumption rose 9 per cent and natural gas and oil were 8 per cent and 5 per cent higher respectively.

Temperatures were substantially lower than a year previously, *Energy Trends* reports, and after correction for temperature and seasonal adjustment, consumption, measured at an annual rate, was 4 per cent above last year.

The cold weather also pushed up power sales to record levels. Electricity supplied during January was 15 per cent more than in 1976 and power stations met a peak load of 49,100 megawatts. During the three months November to January electricity supplies were 8.5 per cent higher than last year.

Broadstone Investment Trust Limited

Managed by J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 120 Cheapside, London EC2 on Tuesday 26 April 1977 at Noon

The following is a summary of the Report by the Directors for the year ended 31 December 1976.

1975
£1,110,913
£535,859
4.12p
3.65p

1976
£1,305,884
£608,327
4.71p
4.50p

% increase
17.5%
13.7%
14.3%
23.3%

Net asset value per 20p Ordinary Share, assuming full conversion of the Loan Stock 151½p 160½p 5.8%

• The dividend increase of 23% compares with a rise in the Retail Price Index of 15% in the year to 31 December 1976.

• For the five years ended 31 December 1976 gross dividends have been increased by 110%, against a 104% increase in the Retail Price Index.

Planet Percy Lane Group

International manufacturers of factory-placed aluminium windows for the caravan, transport, portable building and construction industries, and of disposal chute systems for multi-storey buildings.

● National permitted dividend 2.94p per share
● Record Turnover of £12.2 million
● Pre-Tax Profits almost trebled
● Earnings per share trebled

'I believe 1977 will be a year of further progress'
Peter Lane, Chairman.

Results at a glance £'000
Turnover 12,205



PETROLEUM INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

for appointment as
DEPUTY SECRETARY
about £7,000 to £8,664

Reporting to the Board Secretary, the holder of this new appointment will be responsible for the accounting function, for certain personnel duties and for some statistical work. There will be opportunities to move into other administrative areas. Pensionable under ITB Pension Fund with additional life and accident insurance. Location: Wembley.

Applications, quoting age, qualification and, at this stage, only brief details of commercial or industrial experience to:

The Secretary,

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD
York House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 0PT

Lawyer

International Investment

Our client is seeking a Lawyer with a minimum of ten years' good corporate and financial experience, including negotiation and preparation of investment and loan documents, to join the legal staff of an established international institution in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. International experience and a second major language would be helpful but is not essential. The position involves some travel. Attractive emoluments.

commensurate with experience. All applications will be treated in strict confidence. (Ref. H1297T) REPLY will be forwarded direct, unopened and in confidence to the client unless addressed to our Security Manager listing companies to which they may not be sent. They should include comprehensive career details, not refer to previous correspondence with PA and quote the reference on the envelope.

PA Advertising

Hyde Park House, 60a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE. Tel: 01-235 6060 Telex: 27874



A member of PA International

FAMILY SERVICE UNITS

APPOINTMENT OF NEW

DIRECTOR

Family Service Units employs 150 social workers in 23 Units in England and Scotland. Services provided include: family casework, group work, community work and educational projects.

The Director, as chief officer of F.S.U., is responsible to the National Council for the overall management and development of the Organisation. The Director is supported at National Office by a team of professional and administrative staff. Ideally, the successful candidate should be a graduate with wide experience of social work and proven ability in management. Qualities looked for will include: sympathy with F.S.U.'s comprehensive approach to social work; a capacity for leadership in a decentralised and participative organisation; and the ability to act as an effective public spokesman.

Starting salary: £7,989 inclusive of pay supplement and London weighting.

Full job description and literature available from the Administrative Officer.

FAMILY SERVICE UNITS,

207 Old Marylebone Road, London NW1 5QP.

Closing date, 20th May, 1977.

Solicitor/Barrister

Oil Industry

A Solicitor or Barrister is required by Chevron Petroleum (UK) Limited to strengthen its legal department, engaged in the development of a major North Sea oilfield and other projects. Ideally the successful candidate should have 4/5 years related experience in the Petroleum Industry and be familiar with the legal implications connected with the preparation of joint venture agreements, facilities contracts and general corporate duties. This is a senior appointment offering a career opportunity to a man or woman in the age group 30-40 years of age. Please apply, in writing, to Chevron Petroleum (UK) Ltd (Personnel Department) Chevron House 93 Wigmore Street, London W1H 8AA

Chevron Petroleum (UK) Ltd.



Appointment of Director

NORFOLK AGRICULTURAL STATION

MORLEY, WYMONDHAM, NORFOLK

Salary not less than £7,000 per annum

The Directorship of the Station will become vacant on 1st May, 1978 and applications are invited for the post. Applicants must possess good scientific qualifications, have administrative experience and possess a sound knowledge of arable farming including previous experience in agricultural experimental work. The Station is an independent organisation mainly involved in arable crop production, with particular reference to cereals and sugar beet. There is also a specialist beet production unit. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Norfolk Agricultural Station, Morley, Wymondham, Norfolk NR16 8DB. Applications should be submitted on or before 15th June, 1977.

£6,000 plus Appointments

Head of Social Survey Division

£11,785

The Social Survey Division of the OPCS conducts surveys of the general population and of many special groups within it on behalf of all major government departments dealing with social policy. Projects range from family expenditure and general household surveys to industrial relations and students' budgets. The results of the surveys and the thought and effort which go into their design and execution are a major aid to the formation, monitoring and evaluation of government social and economic policies.

The Head of the Division is responsible for maintaining cohesive policy on survey methods for collecting statistics and on the conduct of social research; for managing the Division's research and specialist groups; and for ensuring that surveys are carried out in a highly professional manner. The Division employs some 220 staff (150 of whom are professional Social Survey Officers) and a large number of part-time field interviewers.

Candidates must have a good background in survey and social research and statistics together with considerable relevant experience and the ability to manage a major research team. Relevant degree or professional qualification advantageous. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 25 April 1977) write to Civil Service Commission, Almonk Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/555/2.

Office of Population Censuses and Surveys

National Gallery of Scotland KEEPER

The Civil Service Commissioners, at the request of the Trustees, invite applications for the post of Keeper of the National Gallery, which forms part of the National Galleries of Scotland.

The Keeper is responsible for the general administration of the Gallery, including the security of the building. The work involves the scholarly study of the paintings in the collection, their care, framing and display in the Gallery; new acquisitions; planning and organising temporary exhibitions; and preparing specialist catalogues and other publications.

Candidates should normally have an honours degree, a good knowledge of European and British painting up to the end of 19th century, and a working knowledge of 2 European languages other than English. Experience of museum administration an advantage. Salary £7,480 rising to £9,060. Non-contributory pension scheme. For further details and an application form (to be returned by 25 April 1977) write to Civil Service Commission, Almonk Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/5507/1.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE BOARD

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD

Applications are invited from candidates with senior administrative experience in the N.H.S. (or similar employment) for the post of Secretary to the Public Health Laboratory Service Board which will become vacant on 30th September, 1977.

The Secretary is the senior administrative officer of the Public Health Laboratory Service and is responsible to the Director and the P.H.L.S. Board for the Headquarters Office (with finance, establishment and supplies sections), and for the administration of the network of 70 Area, Regional and Reference Laboratories of the P.H.L.S. The successful candidate will need to work in close liaison with the D.H.S.S., Welsh Office and N.H.S. Authorities, and some travel will be required for this work.

The post offers challenging opportunities for work in an organisation employing about 100 consultant medical staff and 800 scientific and technical staff, concerned with the control of infectious disease throughout England and Wales; it has important overseas links.

The current salary for the post is broadly equated to that for an Assistant Secretary in the Civil Service.

Further particulars may be obtained from The Director, P.H.L.S. Headquarters Office, Liner Entrance, Colindale Hospital, Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5EQ (01-200 1225). Applicants should send a detailed curriculum vitae, with the names of 3 referees, to the Director, Sir Robert Williams, as soon as possible but no later than 25th April, 1977.

G.M.C./G.M.T.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMME OFFICER

(Chief Executive's Office)

SALARY: £9,000 +

Concerned with evaluation and co-ordination of programmes with particular reference to highways and public transport capital investment. Appropriate backgrounds may be transportation planning, economic evaluation or project management.

Applications by letter giving all relevant details to County Personnel Officer, County Hall, Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester, M2 3JP by 16th April.

TRANSLATOR FOR WEST AFRICA

£9,000 P.A. TAX FREE

ENGLISH/FRENCH/GERMAN: We are shortlisting male translators (single or married), with relevant professional experience, to work on a civil engineering project in the Cameroons. The candidate selected will be between 25 and 50, in good health and able to work equally well in all 3 languages. Two year contract, excellent free accommodation in luxurious camp, and generous home leave.

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES

22 CHANCERY CROSS ROAD, W.C.2

01-638 3784/5

EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTS CONTROLLER

An Agency house requires for their office an executive accounts controller (P.A.C. or equivalent) to assist with and supervise the preparation of company reports, obtaining of offers from principals, investors, advertising agents to customers in Africa, Middle and Far East and Latin America. The applicant must have a sound commercial background and should be able to take responsible executive decisions under minimum of supervision other than on overall company policy matters. The appointment will involve considerable overseas travel. References must be impeccable. Starting salary £7,000 for an initial service agreement for two years. Thereafter salary will be related to £10,000 or more depending on performance and ability. Please apply in confidence to the first instance to:

BOX 0746 J, THE TIMES

Middle East Appointments

DOHA-QATAR

A LEADING CONTRACTING FIRM HAS OPENINGS FOR THE FOLLOWING STAFF:-

QUANTITY SURVEYOR

With experience of working with contractors

EXPERIENCED SITE CIVIL ENGINEER

EXCELLENT TAX FREE SALARIES PLUS ACCOMMODATION AND CAR.

CONTRACTS RENEWABLE AFTER 1 YEAR.

The Managing Director will be in London to interview applicants from Saturday 2nd April until Tuesday 5th April.

FOR AN APPOINTMENT PLEASE PHONE MISS GREEN, 01-235 5781 OR 01-235 9905.

SULTANATE OF OMAN

A Government Department requires

QUANTITY SURVEYORS

Applicants must be qualified R.I.C.S. or I.Q.S. or have passed Final Part II

Salary £8,000 per annum free of local tax. Free accommodation, medical services and transport. Free air passages. Two months paid leave after 12 months service. Initially Bachelor status with a view to married accommodation later if wished.

Applicants should send full details of qualifications, experience and career to date to:

Charles Kendall & Partners Limited,
7 Albert Court,
London SW7 2BJ

Envelopes must be marked "77/RA/4". Interviews will be held in London.

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments

NON-SECRETARIAL

BEAUCHAMP PLACE KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Are you interested in helping me run a very beautiful new shop? I am looking for a young woman with a good knowledge of fashion and a keen eye for detail. The shop is in a prime location in Knightsbridge and offers a great opportunity for a young woman to gain experience in retail management. Salary £3,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to Beauchamp Place, Knightsbridge, London W1.

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

required to handle correspondence with authors, editors and publishers, and to assist in the preparation of the journal. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the editorial office. Salary £3,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to the Royal Astronomical Society, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1N 3AS.

SECRETARIAL

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST

On Co. Chelsea. Adaptable person with pleasant personality required for receptionist/telephone duties. Excellent working conditions. Age immaterial. Good negotiable salary. For appointment please ring Julie Barnett, 01-730 4565.

BEAUCHAMP PLACE KNIGHTSBRIDGE

We are looking for a very competent person to deal with our bookkeeping, invoicing and some other clerical duties. The work is varied and interesting and you will have the opportunity to work on your own initiative. Salary negotiable. Please apply to Beauchamp Place, Knightsbridge, London W1.

BROWNS

OF SOUTH MOLTON STREET require an Accounts person, fully experienced in all aspects of bookkeeping. Salary £3,000 p.a. Negotiable. Generous staff discount. Telephone 491 7833

MATURE BIOSCIENCE GRADUATE OR TECHNICIAN

Required to supervise clinical research in the laboratory. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the laboratory. Salary £3,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to the Bioscience Graduate, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1N 3AS.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

School Leaving/Person Friday. We are looking for a young woman to work in our shop. The shop is in a prime location in Knightsbridge and offers a great opportunity for a young woman to gain experience in retail management. Salary £3,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to Knightsbridge, London W1.

ART AND ANTIQUES

Young, well educated Secretary with shorthand and typing required to help out in a busy office. Excellent working conditions. Salary £3,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to Art and Antiques, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1N 3AS.

PUBLISHERS

require occasional travelling Secretary for periodic visits abroad. Excellent working conditions. Salary £3,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to Publishers, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1N 3AS.

HEATHROW AIRPORT

based Engineer needs an organized and easy going Secretary. Excellent working conditions. Salary £3,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to Heathrow Airport, London.

AUDIO SECRETARY

based in W. London. Excellent working conditions. Salary £3,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to Audio Secretary, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1N 3AS.

WORK IN NEW YORK IN E.C.C.

Great chance for someone to work in the exciting world of U.S. Finance. You need short hand, typing and a good knowledge of U.S. Finance. Salary £3,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to Work in New York, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1N 3AS.

FIRST CLASS SECRETARY

required for Abu Dhabi

Company Secretary, Abu Dhabi. Excellent working conditions. Salary £3,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to First Class Secretary, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1N 3AS.

SECRETARIAL

KENTRO

WORTHWHILE APPEAL

Charitable organization. Excellent working conditions. Salary £3,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to Kentro, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1N 3AS.

SECRETARIAL

BRANCH PLACE KNIGHTSBRIDGE

We are looking for a young woman to work in our branch office. The office is in a prime location in Knightsbridge and offers a great opportunity for a young woman to gain experience in secretarial work. Salary £3,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to Branch Place, Knightsbridge, London W1.

SECRETARY

required for Director of Chelsea Estate Agency. Good working conditions. Salary £3,000 p.a. plus benefits. Please apply to Secretary, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1N 3AS.

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